

Illiana News

January 2019

Happy 2019

A Letter from Our President

Hello to everyone,

Happy New Year to each of you! A big “thank you” goes to all of you who participated in Christmas in the Village. Joan and all her many elves (volunteers) once again presented a wonderful, old-fashioned Christmas celebration that was enjoyed by many, many families. I think it was probably the coldest event we’ve had. Thanks to all the men who helped with the preparations and for taking down everything afterwards.

How about our new street lights that were donated and put up by our local REMC? Thank you to Phil High and his crew for a wonderful job. Don Evans and his crew worked in frigid conditions installing underground wire and getting everything hooked up – thank you gentlemen. Also, thank you to Steve McIntosh, Gary York and the Judyville Methodist Church for donating the popcorn machine. It was very much appreciated and was put to good use.

As most everyone knows, we were very blessed and fortunate to receive a \$50,000 grant from North Central Health Services and Tippecanoe Arts Federation of Lafayette. This grant money is being used to complete our new Assembly Hall, make major upgrades to the electrical system on the grounds, and make major upgrades to our Railroad tracks. This includes a concrete base under the gate crossing and 4,000 new railroad ties. Money from this grant was used to purchase 100 new banquet chairs for our Assembly Hall and also, come spring, Norman Stetler will be making the chimney in the Assembly Hall taller to prevent smoke from coming back into our building.

Thank you to all our new members in 2018. We welcome you to our ranks!

I feel that 2018 was a good year for Illiana, and am very much looking forward to the new year. Sad to say, Illiana lost some very active members last year. We all have good memories of these folks and their contributions, in whatever form they contributed.

Once again, I have been blessed to be a part of this organization that works so diligently to carry on a part of rural history in many forms and functions and present it to the public for the future generations to remember.

Thanks to you all and God bless each and every one of you.

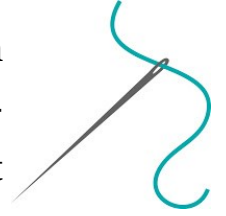
P.S. Don Evans, 1st Vice President, will be having a regular meeting on March 18, 2019 – **No regular club meeting in January or February.**

-Tom

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Illiana Antique Power Association is scheduled for Monday, March 18, 2019 at 6:30 pm in the Assembly Hall. Bring a dish to pass for the carry-in dinner.

The Quilters had their Christmas luncheon at Joan Fry's on Dec. 4th with a delicious lunch and fun gift exchange from the fabric everyone received last year at the Christmas dinner. Some very interesting artwork went into using the fabrics! For pictures, go to the Illiana Quilters Facebook page and check them out.



In January, we will be meeting at the Assembly Hall at the show grounds in Rainsville to work on the bags for History Day. Anyone wanting to spend the day with us is welcome to come. We need people to sew, cut, stamp and string the bags, so if you aren't a seamstress we have plenty of other things for you to do. If anyone has any light-colored fabric (so the stamp will show) that they would like to donate for this project, we always welcome any and all donations of fabric or narrow ribbon. Mark the date of Jan. 28th on your calendar starting about 10 a.m. to join the fun. Bring your sack lunch too!

We hope everyone has had a good start to the New Year and we look forward to seeing a big crowd on the 28th to get the bags done early this year!

Illiana Quilters Important Dates

Mon., Jan. 28 - Bag Production for History Day at the show grounds 10:00 am

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## **Assembly Hall for Rent**

Info for renting the Assembly Hall: the rate is \$250.00 per day. Rentor must take all trash with them after their event, and there is absolutely NO alcohol permitted. Contact any of our Board members to make arrangements or email Doris @ jmanlief@hotmail.com.

## **Thanks for the Cookies!**

A big thank you goes out to everyone who donated cookies for the Christmas show. The response was incredible and we are truly grateful to everyone for their contributions. The show was fantastic and everything looked beautiful as usual. Not even the frigid temperatures could keep people away!

# Rocky Forge Blacksmith News

Submitted by: Ted Stout

The holidays are over and its time to start a new year. Hope you all had a nice Christmas and looking forward to a New Year.

Congratulations to the Kemble family on the birth of their new daughter, Viola Ellenore Kemble, 8 pounds, 11 ounces and 21 inches long.

I had the great pleasure of spending an evening with Kurt Fahrenbach playing with his 600# steam hammer. It was using 375 CFM to operate. He made a top die for a larger hammer. That die was very heavy and had been in the gas forge since 3:00 in the afternoon - he forged it to shape at around 6:30. He also had a 30# piece of 3" round stock in the forge. Kurt made a 30# sledge hammer like you and I would make an "S" hook. See the videos on Carol's Facebook page. He is so good at power hammer work. Kurt's family owned a forge works in Indianapolis, so he grew up around heavy, hot metal. He was also coached by one of the best: Clifton Ralph. Unfortunately, we lost Clifton Ralph on December 24. He had a wealth of knowledge about blacksmithing and power hammer work in particular. He knew the principles of moving metal and was always willing to share it. Our condolences to the family, he will be missed by many. Rest in Peace my Friend.

Our January 12 meeting was cancelled due to this good ole Indiana weather, but one member, who didn't get the cancellation memo, came with a carload. They ended up in the deep ditch across the road from our house. I was able to use my trusty Kubota, from dear ole Ed Grubb, to get them out. It was a pretty bad storm and now we have another one coming this weekend.

Let's try again on February 9th. And since you've been cooped up by the holidays and weather, let's have an open forge time to catch up on your blacksmith's skills. Think of a project that will be new to you, maybe an anvil tool or handled tool like a hot cut or hole punch. Maybe make some punches or drifts. Be creative. We will start at 8:30 with coffee, tea and doughnuts with a short meeting and firing the forges at 9:30. Yes Brad, at 9:30...

I did get an estimate for covering the west part of our Illiana shop. Covering would include: one overhead door, two nice windows, one passage door to the outside and metal on all three sides. The Amish estimate without actually seeing the site is between \$5,000 and \$6,000. Think about it.

Lunch for Saturday will be ham and bean soup, so bring something to go with the bean soup. Also, bring your tools and items for iron in the hat.

Looking forward to seeing you all then.

*Ted and Carol*

**Ted Stout (stout8525@tds.net, 765-491-2194 cell).**



## Reminder:

Saturday, February 9th  
Rocky Forge Hammer-In  
@ Ted's shop, 9:30 a.m.



# Christmas in the Village Report

Submitted by: Joan Fry

“The best so far”!!!

The assembly hall was wonderfully full of families and folks from far and near. The spinning wheel in one corner and the trains in another made lots of kids happy. And don't forget the popcorn. The village street was ablaze with wonderful lights - Illiana Antique Power Association grounds looked like Christmas.

Our Christmas in the Village was a success again! But it would not have happened without the efforts of those who volunteered to do something. Whether your contribution was small or large makes no difference. Everything and everyone came together to help make this the best so far! Thank you everyone!

Santa went through 30 dozen candy canes. Roger and Scott collected a truckload of canned items for the food pantry. Kids from the choirs at Seeger and Benton Central made music in the streets and were happy singing some “old” songs. Gary York skillfully managed those luminaries. The cookies were consumed. The hot chocolate slurped. The letters to Santa were posted. They were great this year. Special thanks to Linda Jenkins, former post office employee, and Chet Craft who manned the office. The chili boys warmed hearts and bellies. In spite of the cold, the blacksmiths were amazing. The Quilters, Mel and his train museum, and the general store had shoppers and lookers. The toymaker made a special appearance from Missouri. But best of all this year was the Christmas cabin thanks to Tom and Carolyn Swanson. And yes, thanks to all of you who prayed for decent weather. We got our answer! It was chilly but perfect for a Christmas celebration.

I know I have not mentioned everyone so fill in the blank with your name. Thank you \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_. You are appreciated! So many good things happened this year, it will be hard to top in 2019. But get ready...we will do it!! Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you!

# Newly designed Website

Adam Swanson has created a new website for the club that is now up and running. It uses the same web address as before (illianaantiquepower.com). Check it out and see what you think.

You can still get to the old webpage by going under the “Other” tab and dropping down to “Old Site.” Pete von Stein has managed the website for many years and was happy to help Adam make the transition. Thank you again, Pete, for your years of serving the Club in this manner and passing the torch along to Adam. And “thank you” Adam for taking the torch and running with it! Great work gentlemen!

(Interesting fact: as Pete and Adam were working together, they discovered that they have something else in common besides building websites. Pete graduated from Indiana Tech in Fort Wayne in 1973, and Adam is currently a Junior at the same college! Small world!)

## Email Address Needed ASAP

The club is moving away from the printed version of the newsletter, which is becoming more and more costly due to rising postage fees (increase is coming this month). Plans are to send the majority of our members the email version of the newsletter and only mail a handful to those who don't use a computer. We hope to make this transition by February/March 2019. Please be sure to submit your email addresses to Shelby or Doris ASAP to avoid missing out on the latest news. Shelby's email is [cox.swanson@comcast.net](mailto:cox.swanson@comcast.net) and Doris's email is [jmanlief@hotmail.com](mailto:jmanlief@hotmail.com).

Also, remember to update us if you change your email. We have a few that are being returned due to bad email addresses.

The newsletters are all archived on the website, so if you do not want to receive the email version, please let Shelby know that you'd like to be removed.

## Pine Creek & Western R/R News

Submitted by: Charlie Lupinek

The railroad crossing at the southwest entrance will be rebuilt to facilitate the crossing of vehicle, equipment, and train traffic. Anticipated construction will be sometime after March. Watch for directions regarding alternative road crossings.

