

[July/August 1995]

DUTCH BARN PRESERVATION SOCIETY

P.O. Box 176
Rensselaer, N.Y. 12144-0176



THE DBPS REPORTER: News of Society Activities

ANNUAL MEETING: Save the afternoon and evening of October 14 for a special event at the Wemp-Touhey Barn outside of Feura Bush on Onesquethaw Road. The barn was dedicated just five years ago. To celebrate, this year's Annual Meeting will re-create some of the events of the original dedication, with a Militia re-enactment and other events in and out of the barn through the afternoon. More details about events will come your way as plans unfold.

We'll adjourn to a nearby church social room or restaurant (details still being worked out) for dinner, a brief business meeting, and a slide talk on Dutch houses near Albany given by Shirley Dunn. The talk will feature previously unseen photos of area houses taken in the 1930s. These were given to Shirley Dunn, and she and Allison Bennett have made them into a book about Dutch houses to be published in early spring. Proceeds of the book will benefit the Dutch Barn Preservation Society. Hear about it and look for your favorite Dutch-style house.

The hay barrack may be ready for the Annual Meeting. The project has engendered a lot of respect for our farmer grandparents. The struggles of Society members John Kaufman, Lisa Caputzal, Louis Caputzal, and Ev Rau to cut and bundle rye in 98 degree heat for the thatched roof, the need to replace the rafter plate, and other adventures, will be told at the Annual Meeting. A workday was held Saturday, July 29. There is still time for you to work on this project. Call Ev Rau at (518) 355-0411 to find out when the next workday will be held.

NEWSLETTER: The most recent Newsletter featuring the Van Bergen Barn has received much praise. Hats off to editor Thomas Lanni, to John Stevens for his rare drawings, and to Shirley Dunn for research! Thomas Lanni is soliciting old photos, measured drawings, and articles about Dutch barns for future issues. Call him at (518) 686-9264 to suggest or submit materials or articles.

The Society has been gathering past issues of the Newsletter into collections each containing five issues (each collection sells for \$6.98). "Collection 1" and "Collection 2" have been available directly from the Society and through the NYS Museum Shop. There are now five more issues, so a cover for "Collection 3" will be designed. That's fifteen issues which have been produced, a valuable resource. Does your library have these sets?

WEMP PRINT: The delightful picture of the Wemp-Touhey Barn and the Van Sante House (now Carl Touhey's house) as they might have looked in the eighteenth century, done by artist and descendant Jack Wemp, is available from Carolina Lazzari, (518) 355-8427.

THREE CHEERS: Dutch barn owner Hazel Roy is restoring her Rhinebeck Dutch barn. Louis Caputzal has been liaison.

BARN LOSSES: A badly deteriorated Dutch barn near Germantown has fallen down. It was viewed by tour members on a tour a few years ago. Worse news is that the Herrington Barn, in Rensselaer County on a large dairy farm, has been torn down. The barn was in fair condition and there was hope it would be preserved.

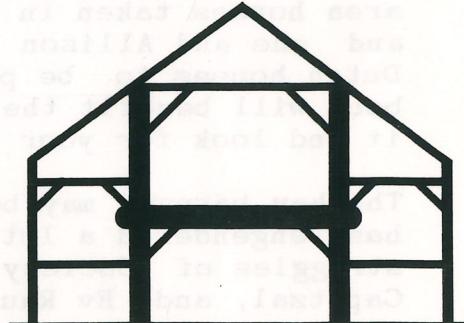
EXHIBIT: The Altamont Fair will run from August 14- 20. The Dutch Barn Preservation Society will have a display, manned by Trustees in the Dutch Barn erected at the Fairgrounds by the Old Songs, Inc. group. See the article at right.

TRUSTEES: Contact Robert Andersen (518) 797-3466 to suggest new Trustees of the Dutch Barn Society.

REMINDER: Check your address label to be sure your membership has been paid this year.

BRONCK MUSEUM: At the invitation of the Greene County Historical Society, the DBPS Trustees met at the Bronck Museum in July for a tour of the two Bronck Houses (dating to c. 1663 and 1738) as well as a tour of the new Vedder Library building. The Dutch barn there was open for a visit, as well. The DBPS did a study of this barn in 1990 and 1991, published in the Newsletter in Fall, 1991. The Bronck complex is one of the premier Dutch sites in the Hudson Valley. It is also a research center. The new library houses archives which include maps, account books and other documents, as well as genealogical materials. The library has newly extended hours. The Dutch houses and the Dutch barn are open only through July and August. The museum and library are on Route 9W, one mile south of Coxsackie.

Dutch Barn makes history at the Fair



An authentic Dutch Barn dating back to the late 1700's has been dismantled, restored and rebuilt timber by timber on the Altamont Fairgrounds.

The 40x45-foot barn originally sat on Craig & Linda Stevens' farm near Ft. Plain in Montgomery County. The Stevens' donated their barn to a cooperative venture between the Fair and Old Songs, Inc. of Guilderland, a group dedicated to preserving traditional music and dance.

Eventually this barn will be the centerpiece of the Center for Traditional Arts and Agriculture and the home of Old Songs, inc., as well as open year-round for public use in concerts, meetings, receptions and exhibits.

During the Fair, traditional entertainment and exhibits will be provided as well as tours of the facility.

Don't miss this latest historical addition to the Great Altamont Fair!