

Rickenbaugh News-2012



Photo of 2012 Rickenbaugh Family Reunion Attendees June 24th 2012

Hello Friends,

We are pleased to send you the 7th edition of the Rickenbaugh News to let you know what activities occurred at the House in 2012.

Two new Tell City chairs were purchased with grant money remaining from when the House was going through rehabilitation. That brings the kitchen suite up to six chairs. The Lincoln Hills Resource Conservation and Development Corporation disbanded and they turned the grant money over to the Forest Service to be used for the House.

Meetings and special events were held at the House this year including the annual Rickenbaugh Reunion on Sunday June 24th. This year was a great turnout with over 29 family members! The extremely hot temperature did not dampen the attendance. Other events include a Perry County Optimist Club meeting and the Rickenbaugh Open House the first Saturday in October.

On a sunny, brisk day 73 people came out to the annual Rickenbaugh Open House for the Perry County Fall Festival. Visitors started coming as soon as Nancy Myers arrived to open the house at 10:00am and were still coming after 3:00pm. This year many of the visitors were relatives of the Rickenbaugh family including Kenneth and Dorothy Lasher (shown in photo at left with their niece and her family). The Lashers, from Evansville, Indiana loyally come each year. Nearing 90 years old, they are still very lively and interested in the House and help Nancy provide information about the House to visitors. Kenneth's mother Anna Beard grew up in the House, raised by her Aunt Ella Rickenbaugh after her mother passed away when she was an infant. Kenneth and Dorothy's niece Margaret, her husband Norm, and their two boys drove all the way from Chicago to see the House. Kenneth and Dorothy's granddaughter Teresa also came to visit. In addition, Ruth Rickenbaugh and her daughter Angela stopped by. Ruth was married to Homer Rickenbaugh (Jacob's grandson and Emory's son). Ruth is 90 years old and still interested in the House. She comes to the annual Rickenbaugh reunion along with the Lashers and many other family



members held the fourth Sunday in June each year. Other Open House visitors were from various places in Indiana; some of the last visitors were from Alabama. One former Perry County resident brought his wife and relatives from the Philippines. They were all very impressed with the House and the work that has been done to rehabilitate it over the years.

Relatives of the George Brothers who built the House made their annual visit to the House in late October.

This year unfortunately due to budget constraints we were not able to hire a summer interpreter, but the Cradle of Forestry campground concessionaires were willing to open the house for visitors by request. We did have a young lady come from the Bedford office to do several evening programs at the Celina Amphitheater north of the House. Topics included owls and bats.



In November, Lillian Blunk, daughter-in-law of Nola Blunk the last Postmistress and resident in the House visited with her family. Lillian is 92 years old and very hearty! She was excited to be in the house again. She's shown in the photo at left with her family.

In October the House was used for the Fire Refresher Training for the Hoosier's fire fighters. It was a great location for fire-fighters to go over annual training needs, review safety requirements and then after a morning meeting, have practical exercises around the

yard and boat ramp. Some employees had never been in the house so it gave us another opportunity to showcase the historic home.

One improvement made to the Home this year was a low swale next to the house causing water to leak into the basement. Two of our staff worked hard in the summer heat to divert the water away from the house so the basement is now dry.

If you have any questions regarding the Rickenbaugh House or would like to be removed from the mailing list, or know someone who should be added, please email nmyers@fs.fed.us or write to her at the address below.

We received a mystery photo this year, and need your help in identifying who this person might be. We know this beautiful young woman is related to the Rickebaughs, but that's all we know. The back of the photo reads, "Joe Dana's Mother". If you have any information our mystery woman, let us know!



Any suggestions for the house, or comments, let us know. We hope you enjoy reading about the improvements and events going on at the House this past year. Thank you for your interest and support of the beautiful, historic Rickenbaugh House!

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