

# Paulson's

# Junque Mail

The official newsletter of PAMA—Paulson's Agriculture Museum of Argyle

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**Our goal at PAMA is to**  
**"...educate current and future**  
**generations on the history of**  
**farming and the equipment**  
**and tools that were used...[and**  
**to] be an inspiration to**  
**all who visit and to enrich**  
**our community."**

—Warren Paulson

## Hours: By Appointment Only

Call to setup a tour with one of our knowledgeable staff. Check our Facebook page for special hours, open house dates, and upcoming events

## Admission:

Adult: \$10.00 Children 8 and under: FREE

## Group Tour:

The museum offers tours and programs appropriate for schools, scouts, churches, garden or social clubs. Reservations for groups of 10 or more are recommended.

## Rentals:

The main building is heated and available to rent year round for your special events (birthday parties, company picnics, school reunions, weddings, social gatherings, toy shows, auctions, and more).



Stay connected with us  
on Facebook!

PAMA - Paulson's Ag Museum of Argyle

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The Paulson Agriculture Museum of Argyle  
is a Nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporation

## Editor's Box

We hope you all had an enjoyable summer filled with family, events, and travels! The museum has been busy with regular activities, monthly open house, rentals, and tours. We attended the Boone County Fair with a few tractors again this year. The fair's tractor display continued its success with 200 tractors, engines, and lawn tractors on display. Truly another great showing!

We recently took part in the 2023 Boone County Farm Stroll. Many new faces visited the museum for the first time and had an enjoyable experience. We were very happy to be a part of the event for the second year in a row.

As we move into the fall season, the farmers are in the fields harvesting. We wish everyone a happy and safe 2023 fall harvest.

Our monthly second Saturday Open House dates have come to an end, we want to thank everyone who stopped by to take a tour, to volunteer, or just to say hello. The museum will continue its normal tour by appointment schedule until spring of 2024. Give us a call and plan ahead so we can have someone guide your personal tour! Personal tours offer the best of the best when visiting the museum; from in depth information, enjoying the museum at the pace you wish, and answers to your specific questions.

As we enter the last months of the year, we will see several meetings and rentals being added to the calendar. If you have an upcoming event, holiday party, or gathering that needs a warm facility, reach out to us and schedule ahead before your date is taken. Generally during the winter months, certain days and times are limited. Plan ahead and reserve your date now!

In this newsletter, we share with you Women "Tractioneers" and a recent donation of a Mannequin to the museum. We also have something special to honor our Veterans.

Ryan Johnson

*Vice President, PAMA Board*

## Museum merchandise web store is open!

The opening of a digital web store has been a great success. If you have not checked it out, it's a great way to show your support of the museum! If you need help placing an order, please contact us.



[https://stores.inksoft.com/paulsons\\_agriculture\\_museum/shop/home](https://stores.inksoft.com/paulsons_agriculture_museum/shop/home)

# The Women “Tractioneers”

By Rick Mannen

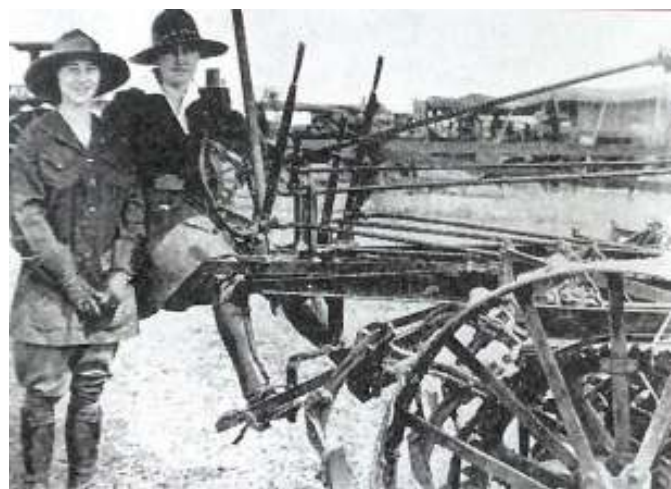
*Note: This article was originally published in the February 2023 issue of Antique Power. To view the entire article, visit [AntiquePower.com](http://AntiquePower.com)*

North American farmers led the world in the free holding of land and independent farm ownership. The “family farm” became, and is still, a term worthy of great respect and honor. The family farm succeeded through a strong work and spiritual ethic. Success hinged on hard work and a partnership of the entire family.

Some recent studies of farm wives of the past have described women as having been on a level of slaves. Although society was certainly operated under patriarchal terms, the slavery assertion is very harsh and likely a creation of modern authors grossly disconnected from rural living. For much of the history of family farming, the work was shared between wife, husband, and children, and even members of the extended family who still lived on the farm. The reality was that farming was hard work for all participants. Until automobiles became affordable and good roads were built, the farm family did not get far from home and hearth. This was not by force, but by circumstances.

Fieldwork, before the advent of mechanized power, made for long, hard days and required muscles and strong backs. Working in the fields and barns fell primarily into the domain of the man. In the farm partnership, the woman held the responsibility for running the household, rearing the children, and perhaps, tending to a vegetable garden. The family farm was a self-supporting entity with most of the food, and even clothing being produced at home. Women worked hard canning fruits, vegetables, and even meats, making jams, pickles and relishes, and other food that would sustain the family through the winter. This was vital but also hard and sometimes gruelling work.

With the lack of household appliances and the preponderance of larger families, the farm wife had little idle time. Whether through the mother’s workload, sickness, or sadly, even death, the daughters were called upon to shoulder the load in helping run the household, rearing



younger children, and sharing the farm chores with their father or brothers.

The winter season, when fieldwork was not possible, offered more quiet time for church, school, and other social events. In the Judeo-Christian ethic of the times, the Sabbath held great importance as the one day of rest and togetherness for the family, although the chores still had to be done. The evening meal—“supper” on the farm—was another wonderful time when the entire family could be together to enjoy the fruits of all their hard work. Local music and dance events, card nights, and school concerts were pleasant gatherings to help relieve the stresses of daily toil. Farm life did have its good times.

## Mannequin on display

Butch Harris and his sisters, family of Annie Larson, have generously donated a mannequin that is now on display at the museum. A newspaper article accompanies the mannequin and is summarized here:

Annie Larson was 38 years old and the mother of 10 children. The oldest under 14 and the youngest, a boy, just one day old.

In 1918, at the age of 38, Annie passed away at St. Joseph's hospital in Belvidere, Illinois, of influenza and pneumonia. Leaving her one day old baby boy and nine other children, motherless. It is said that six of the children were also sick at home.

Annie was survived by her husband, a sister, Mrs. Charles Kingren, and two brothers, John Sanquist and Alex Johnson, all who lived local, and her father and two brothers in Sweden.

General sympathy went out to the family who was so sadly bereaved and it was the desire of many to help the children in their distress.

Funeral services were held leaving Witbeck & Ranger's undertaking establishment and proceeded to the chapel at the Belvidere cemetery, where the services were held.

We want to give a special thanks to the family for their generosity.



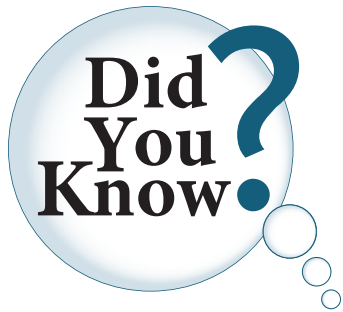
## Flags for honor

Veteran's Day reminds us of the true cost of freedom, and we would like to honor and pay tribute to our military men and women who serve and have served our country.

From now until November 11, we will have American flags available to show support to our veterans. A \$10 contribution will include a flag that will be displayed on the museum grounds, as well as a card to fill out showing who your flag is honoring. The cards will be on display inside the museum. A portion of the funds will go to VetsRoll. VetsRoll's mission is to provide Closure-Gratitude-Respect to America's senior-most Veterans for the incredible sacrifices they have made in the name of freedom! Visit [VetsRoll.org](http://VetsRoll.org) for more information.

You can purchase a flag through a board member, by calling 815-988-3846, sending an email to [pama6950@gmail.com](mailto:pama6950@gmail.com), or sending us a message on Facebook.





The American county fair developed in the early nineteenth century when agricultural reformers in the northeastern United States organized local exhibitions to promote modern farming. Typical events included livestock judging, exhibits of new agricultural implements and techniques, and plowing contests.

The Union Agricultural Society (1839), which published the *Prairie Farmer* from Chicago, drew members from counties throughout Northeastern Illinois and held its first annual fair in Naperville in 1841. Numerous county agricultural societies were organized a decade later, including Porter and Lake Counties, Indiana (both 1851), and Lake (1851), McHenry (1852), and DuPage (1853) Counties in Illinois. Each of these societies soon began holding annual fairs and acquiring land for permanent fairgrounds.

Source: *The Electronic Encyclopedia of Chicago* © 2005 Chicago Historical Society.

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