

Life in the Prairie

Eden Prairie's city
newsletter

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World beaters

Legion team wins World Series
title with 13-inning thriller

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EDEN PRAIRIE NEWS

IT'S THE COWS



PHOTO BY KARLA WENNERSTROM

Steve Schussler of St. Louis Park, creator of the Rainforest Cafe, has been sprucing up Eden Prairie's Goodrich-Ramus Barn at 14150 Pioneer Trail. The entire barn was scraped and painted by hand with paintbrushes; a fence was added, like "putting a frame around a painting;" the roof was replaced, with an added layer of insulation; huge fans were added to extract heat; pots of flowers from Marshall's Farm Market were placed by each entrance. But something was missing. Cows.

SEE PAGE 28, LIVING IN EP, FOR MORE AND PHOTOS FROM THE COW DELIVERY MONDAY.

LIVING IN EP



The Goodrich-Ramus Barn is an Eden Prairie Heritage Site.

PHOTOS BY KARLA WENNERSTROM

Udderly eye-catching

BY KARLA WENNERSTROM
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Several cow statues were lined up in the lower level of the Goodrich-Ramus Barn Monday.



Did you know?

In the 1800s, buying school supplies looked very different for Eden Prairie children. Typical 19th century school supplies included a chalkboard, chalk, an eraser, cedar pencils, a quill pen or stylus, ink, a ruler and a hornbook. Each school would likely have children's books such as A Little Pretty Pocket-Book, Goody Two-Shoes, Elton's Pictorial A.B.C., Marmaduke Multiply and Girl's Own Book. Chalk or slate boards were used to practice reading, writing and arithmetic at school; they served as scratch paper. Cedar pencils did not have erasers and had to be sharpened by whittling one end with a knife. Hornbooks were a lesson sheet mounted on a wooden paddle and usually hung at the child's waist using string attached to the handle. The lesson sheet contained the ABC's and the vowels followed by their combinations with the consonants. At school, children would be expected to have certain manners and follow many laws of etiquette.

Source: ushist.com

This date in EP history

Aug. 16, 1867 – The hotel at Hennepin landing has burned down.

Source: "Eden Prairie Book of Days" by Ernie Shuldheiss



FILE PHOTO

Ginkgo, named for the ginkgo plant, takes a leap

The bevy of bovine beauties was awaiting placement in the barnyard along Pioneer Trail.

They were temporarily placed next to classic cars, jukeboxes and bronze art featuring James Dean and an eagle riding a motorcycle. And upstairs? Forty crystal chandeliers now hang from the ceiling.

Steve Schussler explains. "I love the dichotomy between the old and the new," he said. "I'm making it luxurious."

He said he's already had couples ask if they could hold their wedding at the site. Although that's not in the plans for the near future, Schussler said there is a possibility of nonprofit groups using the building for fundraisers.

INSPIRATION

He is using the Goodrich-Ramus Barn as a creative laboratory. The creator of the Rainforest Café, T-Rex and Galaxy Drive In restaurants, Schussler said he has several methods for sparking his creativity.

"The idea is to be inspired," he said.

He drives a different car every day and is invigorated by spending time at the Eden Prairie barn site. He said he even drives over from St. Louis Park in the mornings to water the plants. "I fell through the floor last week," he said of the upstairs of the barn.

PRESERVATION

He loves the historical aspect of the barn, saying that many of his restaurant concepts involve historical themes. When the door in the upper level of the barn opens and you have a view of Flying Cloud Airport, Schussler says he's speechless.

"Sometimes there's not words for it," he said.

He's hoping to preserve the historical integrity of the barn. He envisions a historic corridor

along Pioneer Trail with the nearby Cummins-Phipps-Grill House, which is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The site has a lot of history in Eden Prairie, as it was home to the Goodrich Hotel and near the Goodrich Store, points out City Council Member Ron Case. Schussler said it's fun to have residents like Ron and Kathie Case who are as excited about history as he is.

Schussler, originally from Queens, has chosen one cow with Yogi Berra's number in a Yankees jersey, in addition to one with the New York skyline and taxi theme. Another is wearing a tuxedo. The cows came from a manufacturer in the Philippines, he said.

Schussler said he was going for class and whimsicality – but also to give people a laugh.

"You want to make people laugh and smile from the road as well as from the entrance," he said, as he directed the cows into place.

He hasn't named the cows yet, but said he would be open to conducting a contest with local schoolchildren to come up with the best names.



VIDEO ONLINE

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Cows awaited placement in the barnyard.

Historic place

Steve Schussler saved the Goodrich-Ramus barn from possibly being dismantled, bidding on the barn when Hennepin County put it up for sale.

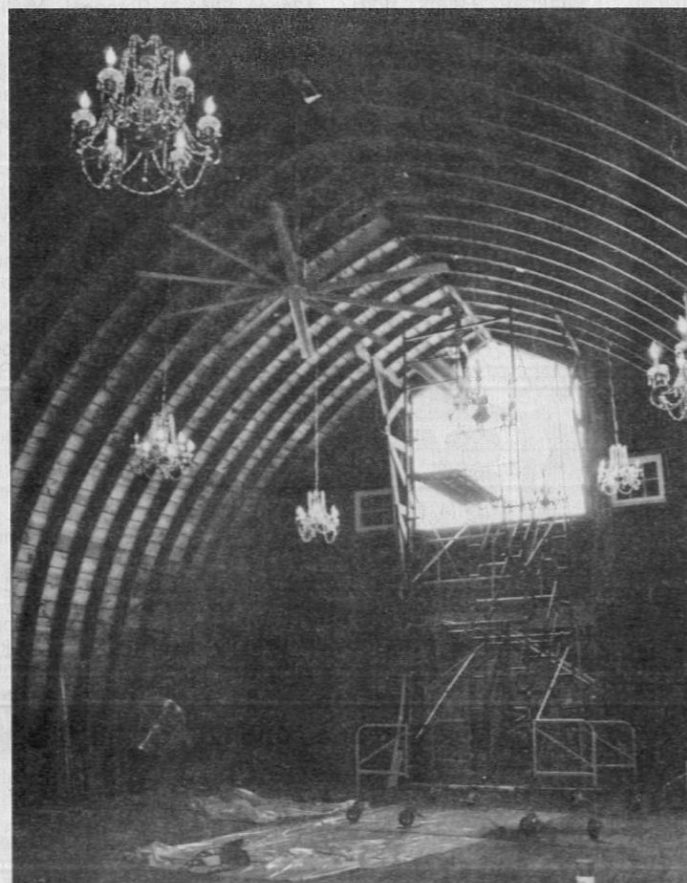
The site was to be cleared for a stormwater pond in 2007 as Pioneer Trail construction started. However MnDOT and the State Historic Preservation Office found that the barn, which was built in 1942, could qualify for the National Register of Historic Places. Owners of the property included Floyd Sjostrand, and the Goodrich and Ramus families.

It was built using laminated arch trusses built by Rilco (Rock Island Lumber Co., a subsidiary of Weyerhaeuser) in Albert Lea, Minn. Schussler said it's the first barn in the United State to use the laminated trusses.

Source: Eden Prairie News archives



Laminated arch trusses by Rilco give the barn its historic heft.



Schussler has added 40 chandeliers to the ceiling of the upper level of the Goodrich-Ramus Barn.



Jukeboxes are being stored in the lower level.



Schussler, originally from Queens, picked some cows with New York themes.

on an agility course.

Turn back the page

The Aug. 19, 2010, Eden Prairie News reported that the Londeen family would again be bringing bunnies to the Minnesota State Fair.

"Tiffany, Sam, Harry and Ted Londeen's rabbits include Phoenix, Bubbles, Peppermint, Tango, Ginko and Eye Candy," the story said.

Mark Engstrom, a livestock advocate for Hennepin County 4-H, said people are often surprised to learn that Hennepin County has 16 4-H clubs, including the Londeens' club, the Hennepin Hoppers, which has been around for about 20 years. About 520 youth participate in the county, according to the story.

Source: Eden Prairie News

Dates to remember

Flower, Food & Foto Show

– Saturday-Sunday, Aug. 20-21, Minnesota Landscape Arboretum

Senior Center BBQ

– 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24, Senior Center, 8950 Eden Prairie Road

Sunbonnet Day

– 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 10, Riley-Jacques Barn, 9100 Riley Lake Road

Art Crawl

– Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 24-25, Art Center, 7650 Equitable Drive

One Acts

– Sept. 16-17, 23-24, 30, Oct. 1-2, Riley-Jacques Barn, 9100 Riley Lake Road

For more information, see the Let's Go! Calendar.