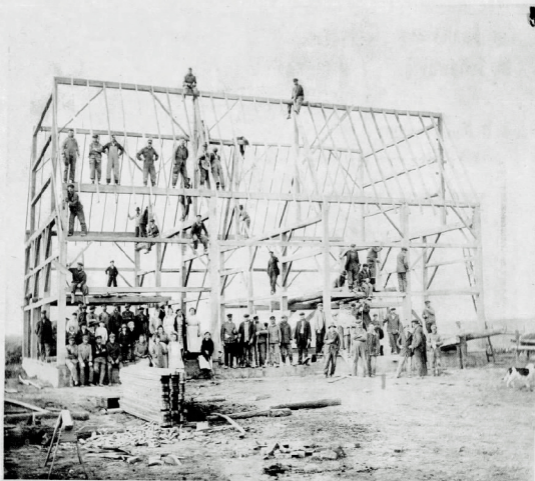


Adam Leiterman Tells About The Job in The 1920's

There Was Work & Fun in Barn Raising



BARN RAISINGS were big events 40 to 50 years ago, but the young folks of today don't know anything about it.

This barn, erected by Max Lang in 1920, is located one-quarter mile east of Bach, and is still standing. The photo was loaned to the Blade-Crescent by Adam Leiterman, longtime East resident who moved to Sebawaing earlier this fall.

When planning a barn, a sawyer spent two to three weeks in sawing, boring and fitting, and then, with the end and center frames lying on the ground, the day of barn raising arrived. It took many men, possibly three dozen or more, to bring the frame into position, and then, with lifting and with pike poles and ropes, the frames were set up, and plates, rafters and purlins were spiked and hoisted into place. Mr. Leiterman recalls that it took about two to three weeks for sawing and fitting, but the raising required only a half-day or so. Steeking was the next operation, as the walls were closed in, and this took a week or so, roofing required about two weeks, and then, when the barn was finished, the square dance followed.

This barn was built from elm and hickory, taken from Albert Fritz's woods, Mr. Leiterman recalls, and a man named Roehrs hewed the trees down with a broadax. The team was a 10' x 10' x 40 feet, and Mr. Roehrs hewed it from a 36-inch tree. Plates were hickory, 8" x 8" or 9" x 9", x 60 feet! Mr. Leiterman helped bring the trees out of the woods, and William Fritz sawed and fitted the frame. Actual raising was in charge of the local expert, Philip Werschky, and the concrete foundation had been put in by Gottlieb Mutchler. Another one of the men on the job was Neil McCollum. Mr. Leiterman is standing, on the hickory pile, sixth from left, wearing the carpenter's apron. The ladies on the picture were in charge of the big dinner that was served to the barn raisers! After all, counting the boys, there were more than 65 hungry mouths to feed!

We appreciate being permitted to use the picture, and also Mr. Leiterman's fine description of barn raising.

You're Invited - - School Merger Information!

SHS Gym - - 8 p.m., Thursday, January 25

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