

Pasto Museum Ag Progress Days, 2008

On the first day of Ag Progress Days, August 19, 2008, June and Al Gray of Pennsylvania, wrote in the Guest Book,

“Unbelievable! Everyone should see this!”

There were also those who had visited before. Carroll Hess, of Kansas wrote,

“Always great to visit Jerry’s Museum It’s a wonder we still have arms and legs.”

The Grays and the Hesses reflect the overwhelming majority of visitors who come to the Museum either for the first time or the tenth time: they find it exciting, informative, surprising, and enjoyable.

The following report is a summation of the comments, both written and heard, during the three-day event this August and an overview of who the visitors were and where they came from.

The Visitors

It is impossible to verify attendance at the Museum this year for several reasons: there were so many visitors that they could not all be counted in the constant flow of traffic. In addition, while there were two entrances, there was just one welcome station where guests were asked to sign their names, addresses and to offer comments. We can, however, make a “guestimate” based on the signatures in the guest books that were signed. More than 950 individuals and families signed the register during those three days. Assuming this number represents approximately 1 out of every 5 or 6 visitors, we can estimate that almost 5,000 visitors toured the museum during Ag Progress Days in 2008.

They came from locations all over the state, region, country and the world! Of course the vast majority came from Pennsylvania, and within the state, most came from central Pennsylvania, and southcentral Pennsylvania. Only ten counties of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania were not represented by visitors who signed the guest register.

There were visitors from the Mid-Atlantic States: Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, New Jersey and New York. Others came from Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Maine. There were guests from Ohio, Georgia, Florida and Kansas. And farther afield, there were visitors from Canada, Ankara, Turkey, and Malaysia.

Comments

Visitors who chose to write comments had overwhelmingly positive impressions of the museum.

***“Wonderful!” “Beautiful!” “Great!” “Love it!” “Really neat!” “Enjoyed displays”
“Keep up the good work!” “Impressive” “Educational”***

Some of the more specific comments were more personal.

***“I feel young!” “Nice to show youngsters” “Looking forward to the addition” “Good
that children can touch and work” “I want a cherry pitter!” “Like the old fashioned milk
bottles” “Brings L. I. Wilder to life” “Very historical” “Thanks, I’m learning a lot”
“Remember these days on the farm” “Been here since 8 years old”***

The most memorable comments were the conversations shared with the greeters and docents as visitors enjoyed the displays.