

Amish Community is a Vital Link to the Past

By Connie Erisman

It is believed that the first two Amish families moved to Dixon in 1980. The two matriarchs Joseph Eicher and Maylen Yoder's families still reside here. It is estimated that there now are approximately 13 families nestled along the secluded countryside on the outskirts of Dixon. Each family averaging anywhere between 5 and 10 children. One family has 16 children. They all remain self sufficient. They are known to locals as being very hardworking, soft spoken, kind individuals. It is refreshing to see the young people working in the gardens or on equipment right along side the adults as one drives by. It is a wonderful way to teach the children responsibility and how to contribute to the family's needs.

It is a common occurrence in Dixon to see a horse and buggy tied, (parked) along the uptown streets or at a local grocery store. In recent years Missouri has been deemed to have the fourth-highest Amish population growth in the country, with 41 settlements and more than 10,000 Amish living in the state.

Missouri's Amish population grew by 15 percent over the last two years, fueled by large family size, high retention rates and immigration. Researchers say Missouri is attractive to the Amish be-

cause of available and reasonably priced farmland, as well as the rural atmosphere that assures them of cherished privacy.

The Amish are very diligent in their business practices according to neighbors. You will find trades such as a sawmill, newly constructed butcher shop, handmade furniture and storage buildings from Eicher Manufacturing among other various occupations. The butcher shop started out just processing deer and now it has grown to soon becoming a custom butcher shop complete with new building to house the business. It is oper-

R-N Butchering.
Photo by Connie Erisman



ated by Roman Miller, who along with his sons, completed construction of the new butcher shop in the fall of 2015. The establishment is named R-N Butchering...the first initials of Roman and his wife. He jokingly commented about the idea of RN, "after all RN nurses take good care of people," he smiled, referring to his chosen name for the business. Roman stated that customers can bring the meat of their choice for processing on location. The Millers will make summer sausage, jerky and snack sticks out of it also if requested.

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The Amish sell produce and baked items to residents of Dixon and the surrounding community. Photo by Connie Erisman

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