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## PART OF COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

# Rural Town Holds Round Bale "Roll-Off" Contest

If you've been looking for a new event for a fair or local celebration, you'll be interested in this "round bale roll-off" contest that took place last August in Paisley, Ontario.

Teams of three people took turns trying to roll a 6-ft. round bale toward a finish line. Two people pushed the bale while the third tried to stay on top of it. If he fell off, he had to get back on top before they could start the bale rolling again.

The event was part of a "Farmer Olympics", which took place during the community's annual "Beef Fest" celebration and included other farm-related events.

Wayne Tanner was in charge of Farmer Olympics events. "Thirty teams participated in the bale roll-off and about 500 people were there to watch. The photos don't show the type of 'disasters' that happened during the event or the true sense of speed involved. The bale we used was pretty much decimated by the end of the day."

Other events included a square bale throw-

ing contest, a "poop shoot" (to see who could throw a 10-lb. bag full of manure the farthest with a shovel), the "farmer's walk" (participants hold a tractor weight in each hand and walk to the finish line as fast as possible), and a "to the mill" relay (a team of four must haul 4 grain hogs "to market"). One participant ties the bags, one loads them into a wagon, one drives tractor and wagon to the "mill", and one unties them. The tractor driver has to go through an obstacle course to get to the mill and then back up to a loading dock. Once the bags are untied, he races for home - with the tractor in low range. "The mill relay was the most popular event because many entrants had never driven a tractor or tied a grain bag," says Tanner.

Winners of the events received prizes from local retailers.

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Other events included a "poop shoot" to see who could throw a 10-lb. bag full of manure the farthest with a fork or shovel.



Rick Ronczka, Arvin Ray, and Charlie Macioci with the "keepers" found in a privy dig at Chillicothe, Ohio.

## MEMBERS OF NATIONAL PRIVY DIGGERS ASSOCIATION PROMOTE UNUSUAL HOBBY

# "Privy Diggers" Look For Buried "Treasure"

By Nancy Lowe Lonsinger

If you're looking for a new and unusual hobby, you might want to get in touch with the National Privy Diggers Association. They're looking for a few good men, and women, who like the idea of digging out under old outhouses.

Privy diggers study old city maps to locate the earliest residential areas in their search for hundred year old outhouse locations because that's where the best buried "treasures" are found. They don't dig out under old farm outhouses because most farm families disposed of trash in other spots on farms. City folks, however, frequently used outhouses as trash dumps.

Charlie Macioci of Canal Winchester, Ohio, and Rick Ronczka of Monaca, Penn., began digging into old privy sites several years ago. They're methodical in their digging, documenting each site as though it were an archaeological dig. They note at what levels they find wood ashes, lime, undigested seeds and, of course, whatever treasures they unearth.

Macioci, who is a deputy sheriff, specializes in collecting wax sealing canning jars. Ronczka, a business executive, collects a variety of artifacts.

Before digging, the men probe likely spots with 8-ft. steel rods. Humus soil, which is a good indication of a privy site, probes easily. The men also listen for another good indication - the clink of rods against glassware.

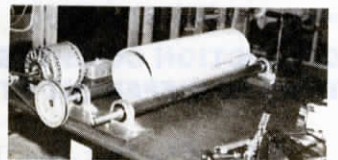
They use shovels until they reach a layer of artifacts, then switch to hand trowels. The richly organic soil crumbles easily, allowing artifacts to be spotted quickly and extracted without problem. Even small items like buttons fall free, making sifting unnecessary in most cases.

Glassware is placed in the shade as soon as it's taken from the cool damp hole so the sun doesn't cause too rapid a temperature change, cracking the pieces.

Most common discoveries are wine, ink and medicine bottles. They also find dishes, kerosene lamps, jars, and animal bones. They're able to date bottles by embossed lettering and pontil marks.



As Ronczka removes soil from holes, he places it in 5-gal. buckets. Bottle polisher, below, consists of PVC pipe on rollers.



In addition to items intentionally dumped under a privy, the men find items they presume were lost rather than tossed, such as false teeth, gold watches, marbles, doll heads, coins, pens, and other such items.

Ronczka, who has produced a slide show to help explain the unusual hobby, says safety is a major concern since the 8 to 10-ft. high sides of a privy hole can easily collapse. They sometimes shore up the sides when working in sandy soil.

To clean up glassware, items are first washed with soap and water. Then Ronczka buffs them with a homemade buffer that's simply a large piece of PVC pipe laying on a pair of powered rollers. He puts a jar inside the pipe, together with an aggregate material, and lets it tumble.

For more information, contact: FARM SHOW Followup, National Privy Diggers Association, 614 Park Dr., Mechanicsville, Va. 23111 or Rick Ronczka, 564 Taylor Ave., Monaca, Penn. 15061.