

Reader Identifies Fisher Farm Funeral

by Jean Van Rensselaer
The winner of the March 7 Trace This Place Contest is Raymond H. Steben Sr., 264 Illinois St., Elmhurst.

Special thanks to other the entrants: Bradner Hilliard, Frank J. Kolar Sr. and Joe E. Wileck.

The March 7 contest photo depicted a line of early model cars on a narrow road with a windmill in the background. Steben's entry reads as follows:

"The photograph published in the March 7 issue of The Elmhurst Press is a picture taken in 1925 during a funeral at the former Henry D. Fischer farm, located on Grand Avenue at County Line Road, two miles west of Mannheim Road.

"The windmill on the farm was erected by Henry D. Fischer during 1847-1850. The dimensions are: 50 feet high with an 80 foot wing-spread, built in the north German style. The mill was

used for grinding grain and was open to the public.

"Elmhurst 'Trails of Yesterday' by Don Russell states that the mill was built by Frederick Fischer from 1847-1860. This statement is incorrect. It was erected by Henry D. Fischer 1847-1850.

"Mount Emblem Association purchased the property in 1925 and established a Masonic Cemetery, highlighting the Old Dutch Windmill. The working interior of the mill is intact, and it is maintained as a landmark, floodlighted at night.

"In 1935, the cemetery group erected a two-story stone office building, which is still being used today. On June 14, 1936, Dr. Preston Bradley, a noted People's Church pastor, officiated at the dedication of this building and Mount Emblem, Illinois' Most Beautiful Cemetery. Without the Gates of the City."

3/21/86

Secret Weapon Of Contest Champion

Can you beat Raymond H. Steben Sr.? Steben has won three out of five Trace This Place contests. His tireless efforts show no sign of waning. He's running out of lapels and wall space for his buttons and certificates.

Steben's secret weapon is a storehouse of memories that comes from being a lifelong Elmhurst resident. "I delve into the museum to verify facts," he said, "but I've been around town for 70 years."

Steben has also had to rely on his wits. For example, he saw a picture at the Elmhurst Public

Library and recognized it in one of the recent contest photos. This led him to research the photo at the Elmhurst Historical Museum.

Entrants don't have to be veteran Elmhurst residents. There are a variety of creative ways to research the photos, such as using the information available at the Historical Museum, interviewing friends and neighbors who may have some insight about the photo and leaving through Elmhurst's many history publications available at the library.