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 Steak - \$10
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Lourdine Florek
 editor

Just the facts

Susan Comstock
 ad manager

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 1995
 Hoopeston's only locally-owned daily news publication!
 (217) 283-9348 P.O. Box 441, Hoopeston, IL. 60942

Train robbery to be theme of Pumpkin Family whodunit

A local Halloween tradition is making a come-back for this year's Pumpkin Family Reunion.

This year's reunion will have residents looking for things all over the countryside during the 1995 ghost rally.

The ghost rally is "a treasure hunt, a poker run and a collection of old stories," said creator Jack Miller.

On Saturday, Oct. 28, people grouped in at least four-man teams will be given a map and individualized clues leading to puzzle pieces solving the mystery of a fictitious 1899 Hoopeston train robbery. Participants will scour approximately 80 miles of countryside looking for wooden puzzle pieces solving "whodunit."

Miller, who already knows the course, will lay out puzzle pieces the day of the rally. All pieces will be on public property and will be somewhere between Woodland to the north, Oxford, Ind. to the east, Clarence to the west and Bismarck to the south.

Some clues will be obscure. For example, Miller said, one clue was "if right is wrong, what is left? It's the right way to go." Unusually-shaped trees and other landmarks often hold clues, he added.

The rally will begin at 6 p.m., with cars leaving every five minutes, Miller said. The first team to

collect all the puzzle pieces wins the rally. If a team has no problems, Miller estimates a winner will be named in two to 2 1/2 hours.

Of course, sometimes teams have problems. One of Miller's brothers-in-law participated one year and had car trouble along the route. Another participant, driving a tow truck, found him and took him to the nearest town.

Teams will pay an entry fee to participate. Previous fees have been \$20, Miller said. Any profit will go to the Hoopeston Chamber of Commerce, sponsor of the Pumpkin Family Reunion,

Miller said.

Miller has created ghost rallies since 1982, when sleuths sought "body parts" for a murder. Corn silk "hair", corn kernel "teeth" and grape "eyes" were all on the list that year.

There was no rally in 1983, but in 1984, "we got a little more sophisticated," Miller said. He drew a ghost, cutting the design into 13 puzzle pieces. In 1985, a ghost pirate ship was the motif, followed by the "Headless Horseman" in 1986.

"The 13 Brides of Dracula" was the 1987 theme. Miller's wife, Sarah, coordinating this year's reunion, was the 13th bride that year. She agreed to be buried in a casket and have a special-

See WHODUNIT on other side



The logo for the 1995 ghost rally, designed by Darren Johnson of Kankakee, has been screened on t-shirts for the event.

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Briefly

Benefit planned

A benefit for James "Dobie" Birch will be held from 8-11:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 15 at the Hoopeston American Legion.

Entertainment will be "Cooken' Cookie," deejay from Milford. An auction is also scheduled. Donations will be accepted.

Pumpkin Family Reunion

A Pumpkin Family Reunion meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in the back room of

Crunch's.

Vote, vote, vote

It's time to select the monthly winner in the People's Choice yard contest. Contestants are: Gary and Cheryl Gillins, Main St., Wellington; Dave and Doris Cannon, 229 W. Maple; Fran Harris, 330 N. Second, Wellington; and Mabel Mathieson, 858 E. Chestnut.

To vote, call Just the Facts at (217)283-9348, between noon and 1 p.m. Wednesday.



Court dispositions



Aug. 17: Dawn Russell, Ambia, Ind., disturbing the peace, pleaded not guilty, bench trial Sept. 21.

Karen Relation, Hoopeston, theft, \$75, three months court supervision.

Stephen Robbins, Danville, deceptive practice, failed to appear, summons issued.

Joe Thrasher, Hoopeston, owner's duty, pleaded not guilty, bench trial.

Whodunit continued from other side
ly-created stake driven through her heart.

The rally draws people from surrounding communities, Miller said, adding those from outside Hoopeston tend to do better because they are not as familiar with country roads and tend to pay more attention to the clues. One team, headed by a man from Danville, won a previous rally in 15 more minutes than it took Miller to lay out the course. "For some, it's a dog-eat-dog competition," he said.

Miller said he always tells participants to stay off private property during the rally because no clues are located there. "You're just asking for trouble then," he said.

The number of teams is limited for safety reasons, Miller said. Anyone who would like to participate may sign up at S.A.R.A.H.'S. Fitness Center, 203 E. Main.

In the Hospital



Hoopeston Community Memorial Hospital
Sept. 11, 1995

Admitted: Debbie Clingenpeel, Hoopeston.

Discharged: Mary Jane Dixon, Milford; Elsie Reed, Ambia, Ind.; Edna Crozier, Hoopeston.

Police News



John Williams, 19, of 210 E. Thompson, was arrested Monday on outstanding warrants for failure to appear. He was released on \$200 cash bond.

Weather



Partly cloudy today. High in the upper 70s. Tonight, fair. Low in the mid 50s. Tomorrow, partly sunny, warmer. High near 82, low near 58.



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