



Middlefield Post

Neighborhood News From Around The Corner
Serving Middlefield, Parkman, and Huntsburg

Vol. 4 No. 14

April 28, 2010

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End of Commons Upgrades, Retains Old-Time Charm



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By Nancy Hrivnak

It's hard to fathom that a one-time corporate international salesperson is vital to the success today of Ohio's oldest general store in Mesopotamia. You simply don't think "big business" when you visit End of the Commons old-time general store at the intersection of Routes 87 and 534 in the heart of Plain Country.

And, in fact, the **only** connection between big business and End of the Commons General Store is that one of the most recent owners **left** corporate international sales to run an operation with all the charm of a small-town shop of yesteryear.

Ken Schaden, who was in corporate sales for many years, his wife Margaret and their 11 children make today's End of the Commons what it is. First established in 1840, their old-time, one-stop shop now is a recently upgraded, unique family-run general store much like some you visited as a kid. Maybe you even stopped to gas up and snack at a place like End of the Commons on your way to a Howard Johnson's or a roadside motel near Niagara Falls.

After recent expansion and remodeling, End of the Commons is still old-fashioned. It's also spacious and



Motorcycle riders from the Lake County area take a bike break at the recently remodeled and expanded End of the Commons General Store on Route 534 in Mesopotamia. The travelers took advantage of a summer day in spring.

features large, state-of-the-art, new public restrooms and a sit-down cafe.

Ken and Margaret bought End of the Commons in 1982. Born and raised in Chicago, Ken was transferred to Cleveland where he worked for a clothing manufacturer, coordinating all of the company's clothing operations in the Orient with those in Cleveland. Constant business travel and pressures made Ken and family think a change of jobs would be good.

Ken, living in Mesopotamia, visited the very store he now owns often to buy

milk, groceries and penny candy for his own brood. When the store was for sale, he thought that it would be a great way for his family to work together while serving the needs of their own neighborhood.

End of the Commons offers more than 1,000 practical bulk-food items and the sharpest American-made kitchen knives I've used in a long time, as well as all the stuff you know you don't need but want anyways. Things like old-time memorabilia, old-fashioned candy, Amish Country meats and cheese, hand-dipped

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~ Don't Miss Our Special Dining Guide Feature Inside ~



In Honor of Mom...

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**Treat Mom to Dinner on
Her Special Day**
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**Mother's Day Memories,
Trivia, Recipes and More**
See Plain Country



Joe Pleasce drives Jim Krepp's pair from Delevan, N.Y. at South Farm. (Post Photo/Rhonda Clark)

South Farm Invitational Pony Pull Highlights Sport of Yesteryear on Saturday, May 8

Turn to page 15 for all the details.

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