

## ***Berne Tri-Weekly News***

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“Historical Group Spends Friday in Area”

BY JIM LANGHAM

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A group of over 40 tourists whose heritage is deeply rooted in early Indiana history, spent the day on Friday touring such local interests as Amish life, Swiss life, the Swiss Clock Tower and the cabin and marshlands surrounding the life of Gene Stratton Porter.

The group, Society of Indiana Pioneers, represents Hoosiers whose early roots in Indiana date back to 1840 or before. The group was led by Nelson Price, a well-known journalist and radio announcer from the Indianapolis area who specializes in research into the lives of famous Hoosiers.

Price has written such books as "Indiana Legends," "Legendary Hoosiers," and CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 Historical continued from page 1 "A Quiet Hero: A life of Ryan White." In addition, he authors numerous Indiana history textbooks for schools around the state, especially those in the Indianapolis area. Price's live history radio broadcast airs each Saturday at noon on 88.7 FM, WICR, in Indianapolis, and through various Internet connections across the country. The program originates from the campus of the University of Indianapolis.

This past Friday, Terri Gorney, from the Friends of the Limberlost organization and Price worked to combine the two groups for the local tour.

Tour members, who numbered over 40 by tour bus, visited an Amish farm, enjoyed lunch at the Palmer House Restaurant where they were greeted by Mayor Bill McKean and other city officials, spent time at the clock tower, and then were given a historical perspective of the marshland by Ken Brunswick, local DNR educator.

The group concluded its tour with a brief hike in the Loblolly Marshland and a light supper on the Ceylon Covered Bridge.

Price said it had been many years since he had visited the local area.

"There have been wonderful changes made up here," said Price. "It's all very impressive. Last year we visited the Rome City site."

Price said that he had personal appreciation for a tour of an Amish school, his first-ever visit to such a site.

"It was such a delight to interact with the kids," said Price. "They sang a song with all of their names in it that they had written just for us."

"I travel all over the state and I am impressed at the way this area has keyed in and developed its strengths," continued Price. "I am very impressed with what has happened in the reclaiming of the swamp and the Limberlost Visitor's Center. I can't say enough about the Swiss Clock Tower; it's all so impressive."

"This is really an interesting treasure of Indiana," said Indianapolis resident David Cook. "I didn't realize you had all of these attractions up here. I am impressed with the tower in Berne and supper here on the bridge. There are obviously many dedicated people in this area to preserve this area. I especially enjoyed the interaction with the Amish."

Retired Indianapolis lawyer John Price said that he is fascinated because the local area offers treasures that won't deteriorate with time.

"There is a great deal of very enjoyable treasures in this area," said Price. "Man-made items become obliterated with the passage of time, but there is history in this area that is natural, it is not going to erode."

Many of those visiting commented in a positive way about the friendly and open spirit of people in the area.

Terri Gorney, representing the Friends of the Limberlost, said that she considered the opportunity to bring the two groups together as a historical treasure in itself. Gorney, who is involved with both groups, said she had often experienced dreams of the two groups merging for a single outing.

"That happened today," said Gorney. "It has been a great day."