

LIVING HISTORY

Farm Park is Crawford County's best-kept secret

BY EMILY SORGER

Special to the Record-Eagle

The people, animals and machines at Wellington Farm Park in Grayling create an atmosphere that

takes visitors back in time.

Complete with costumes and demonstrations, the park recreates what life was like for farmers during the Great Depression.

"Anything and everything we do here is to preserve and remember how things were in the '30s," said park manager Jim Smith. "We provide a learning experience for youngsters and oldsters alike."

The park is open for wagon rides and demonstrations from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the summer and fall. Visitors can walk the nature trails, explore historical buildings, watch old farm machines in action and even pet some of the many animals that live there, including sheep, goats, llamas and peacocks. There is also a farm market during the week in season.

Along with the usual activities, Wellington Farm Park has several special events and festivals scheduled for the fall.

Wellington Farm Park's Pumpkinfest takes place every weekend during the month of October. This festival features free hayrides,



Record-Eagle/Meegan M. Reid

Wellington Farm Park recreates what life was like for farmers during the Great Depression.

an operating cider mill and different themes each week. From "Everything Apples" weekend to "Cider, Molasses & Vinegar" weekend, visitors can learn how to make breads, soups, spreads and desserts the

old-fashioned way.

Sept. 27 and 28 is the park's "Walk-thru-History." With interactive displays, demonstrations and music, visitors literally walk through history from 1600 to 1932.

Wellington Farm Park is a non-profit organization in its eighth year of operation. It relies on 60 volunteers who work hard to make demonstrations both interesting and accurate, said Smith.

"We've got a fantastic group of supporters," he said. "Our primary focus is education."

Now they just need to spread the word.

"Our biggest problem is just trying to get the word out," Smith said. "People have said we're the best kept secret in Crawford County."

Admission to Wellington Farm Park is \$4 for adults and \$3 for students and senior citizens. Call (800) 653-3276.

220 HORIZON



You are cordially invited to our:

5th Annual Fall "On Water" Boat Show

Date: Saturday, September 27

Time: 10:00-4:00

Place: Burt Lake Marina
Dockominium Facility
6831 Barbara Street

Featuring:

2004 Four Winns Boats

Please come and join us for a preview and test ride of the 2004 Four Winns Boats. Take advantage of special boat show pricing on 2003 & 2004 boats.. Our famous hot dogs will be served!

In case of foul weather, the show will be postponed to Sunday, Sept. 28th from 12:00-4:00



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