

THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE
VOL. X Issue 4
Spring 1985

COME TO THE SPRING FAIR ✓

May, the current month, marks the beginning of the summer season for the Village and the first of several major weekend activities spaced through the summer, always on the third weekend of the month. May 18 and 19 will be the Spring Fair.

Taking the place of the planting festival, the Spring Fair attempts to re-create an early country fair as it might have been part of the early days of life in southwestern Ohio in the 1800's.

To attempt to present such a fair, the emphasis will be on childrens' games, home cooking, the enjoyment of farm animals, home crafts, and incidental, live music. To encourage patrons to feel as part of the activities, all who come in a pioneer dress or suit reminiscent of our early days will enter without charge. All others will be asked for a donation of one dollar, children free. Early country fairs were often joyous, spontaneous, simple, local and indigenous; that is, were composed of the life of the farmsteads around the setting of the fair. We hope to do the same.

Those coming to the fair, it is hoped will enter into the fun. History can be fun as well as informative.

COLLETT HOUSE COMES ALONG

George Wall and Burnett Butterworth have framed the Collett house windows and put them in and have both front and back doors installed. Frank Crabtree and Linda Lee have removed debris from the second floor and hauled all the lumber up there ready to lay flooring.

THANKS AGAIN.....

to all the loyal members who keep sending in dues to help the project.

LARGE NUMBER VISITED ✓

School days, the seminars for school children, took place May 1, 2, and 3, and accommodated a record number of pupils according to Linda Lee, who coordinated the event. She said that about 900 people were scheduled to come on the three forenoons and one afternoon. As school days are "rain or shine," buses kept pouring in with the rain on the first two days. Spirits did not seem to be dampened.

Since guildes were difficult to get this year, a new system of rotating class groups from craftsman to craftsman on a signal from the school bell was used.

There were about ten craft stations around the Green and groups started at these and then moved on signal clockwise to the next station.

Lunch was served to the workers and crafts people.

CHERRY TREES PLANTED ✓

Five cherry trees were planted in memory of Bob Head by Sharon Cunningham recently, one near the Meeting house, three near the Head building, and one next to the Toll house. Mrs. Head and the children suggested that Bob would have liked cherry trees.

Also planted were several replacement trees in the Plecker orchard that did not make it through the severe winter cold. Several trees for transparent apples were also planted.

GROUND PLOWED FOR WHEAT

Members of the Warren County Antique Machinery Club plowed about an acre of ground to the south of the cane field in which to plant wheat for the August show. An antique John Deere plow was used.

Raymond Eakins, a Village neighbor, plowed the cane ground, and between rains, the cane was planted by Village men. Sorghum has to be planted at an early date to insure its being ripe by festival time.

Homer Marsh, Burnett Butterworth, Stan Ireton, George Wall and others tend the crop during the growing season. A lot of elbow grease goes into this Village feature.

TOLLHOUSE NEEDS YOU 2016

The Toll house is now open and staffed with host and/or hostess for Saturday and Sunday. This effort stimulates visitors' interest in the Village and proved to be very worthwhile last year. We need more volunteers to sign up for service these weekends. Burnett Butterworth and Ethel Jefferis have the list and the dates still open. Contact Burnett (897-4218), Ethel (932-2994), or Linda Lee (897-2672) and offer to take a turn. A phone call and a few hours' time can help the Village greatly.

Visitors are now coming to the Village in large numbers on weekends.

SECURITY LIGHT PREPARED 2016

This past week, through the efforts of Don Richards and Frank Crabtree, the security light in front of the Toll house is now working again.

Last summer the underground electric line was snagged by the backhoe as the pedestrian path was being put in. Recently the line was dug up and a new line laid. The security light and electricity to the Toll house are now on again. Richards dug up the line and he and Crabtree laid it and covered it.

HERB GARDEN WINTERED WELL

Mic Richards reports that the herb garden came through the winter in good shape, thanks primarily to the deep snow that lay on the ground during the coldest part of the winter. She says that winter kill in the herb garden is very light.

Mic took over the garden when Martha Martin moved to Florida, and she has continued to develop the garden and maintain it. This is no small task.

Mic has been cultivating and weeding, and adding plants.

MAIN GEARS RUN QUIETLY

Recently during the course of discussions and litigation over the suit filed against the Village by James and Becky Simpkins, we had the occasion to use Village minutes recorded over the last few years in attempting to reconstruct the past.

It wasn't difficult. It was all there, in precise and careful detail, event by event recorded with the usual care by Kathryn Butterworth, who has been the Village secretary for the past many years. One hears about people whose names come up again and again. While these people are valuable to their organizations in many ways, those who work quietly behind the scenes sometimes don't get the appreciation they deserve.

The quality of the minutes illustrates the point. Kathryn has been central to the consistent and continuing operation of the Village for many years in many ways, quietly helping to keep the Village going, from meeting to meeting with the indispensable minutes, from festival to festival as chairperson of the bake table, from year to year as collector of memorabilia and organizer of scrapbooks that provide one history of the Village. Then, to help during school seminars, work days and running the toll house during the summer season.

Everyone who has a hand in the Village contributes in some way, and quiet workers like Kathryn are very important to the project.

A GOOD START FOR THE YEAR

The first public event of the Village year, the running of the booth at the Bellbrook Maple Sugar Festival on April 13 and 14, enjoyed good crowds, good weather, and good help. The result: \$612.18 in gross receipts. The booth sold crafts, penny candy, dill pickles, and woven rugs.

The booth was set up on Saturday morning in the park in the center of town. Linda Lee used her car as a supply truck, and Frank Crabtree brought tables and rail fencing in his truck.

Good weather helped the sales, also the crafts demonstrators.

Among those helping over the two-day event were Lynn Falkner, Mary Archer, Calvin St. John, Becky Silva, Mic and Don Richards, Thelma Hatfield, Annafrances Riddle, Beverly Lee, Frank Crabtree, George Wall, and coordinator of the event, Linda Lee.

Several dulcimer players from the Mountain Dulcimer Club came by on Saturday and provided music. They were Ed Fisher, Judy Liesch, Carolyn Bell and Joan Lee.

The booth was taken down and hauled back to the Village late Sunday afternoon, again using the Lee station-wagon, the Crabtree truck, and also the Richard and St. John trucks.

The Bellbrook Sugar Maple Festival grows each year in size and interest. It is the first major activity in which Pioneer Village members participate each year. It features sap boiling in a "sugar camp" and has exhibits, a sugar maple drawing, exhibits, food and entertainment. A good early festival to attend!

SPRAY PLANTS FLAX PATCH

Kat Spray has put out a nice patch of flax to the side of the Githens house and, at last check, it was starting to come up. Since Kat works with flax and the Githens house is the place for spinning and weaving, it is appropriate as a place for the flax. The new Troy Built rototiller that was Procter and Gamble's gift to the Village last fall was used to till the sod for the patch. The flax patch was the tiller's first Village assignment.

STORE OPENS FOR WEEKENDS

The Village general store is open for the season, presently for weekends but soon to be on Wednesdays through Sundays. Beverly Lee and Annafrances Riddle have been very industriously stocking inventory for the new season.

Don and Sharon McCoy recently spent a Sunday afternoon on the store porch, treating passersby to some good music.

WALL TO GET SPRAYING DONE

George Wall was asked by the trustees recently to get some one to spray the buildings for insects and rot, a maintenance precaution taken every other year or so. George will efficiently get the job done.

A VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION SHOWS PROGRESS IN PROPORTION TO SUPPORT OF MEMBERS

Mrs. William Lukens
204 Northwood Dr.
Lebanon Ohio 45036

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DONATION

\$1

1985

PIONEER VILLAGE

JULY 20 & 21, 1985

FROM WAYNESVILLE OR HARVEYSBURG ROUTE 73

BATTLES AT 2 DAILY
VISIT ENCAMPMENTS
FOOD SERVED

The Civil War

