

THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE

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FIRST FESTIVAL SET FOR MAY 17 & 18

The first of the five Village festivals set for 1986 will take place May 17 and 18 with a two day slate of activities for everyone. A "Spring Affair" to follow the model of last year's spring festival, it will incorporate the usual activities of the Village festivals and will include children's games, food and barbecued chicken, craftsmen (About forty of them, according to Linda), wagon and animal rides, music on the stage and grounds, and drinks and food from the bake table in the barn.

The Spring Affair will offer free admission to all who come dressed as pioneers (with some latitude allowed for interpretation of dress styles) and prizes will be offered for the best dressed (pioneer, that is) man, woman, boy, girl, and family.

The Tollhouse will be open for information and membership, and the various buildings will be open for inspection and viewing. Parking will be in the large grass field immediately south of the Village and the front lot will be reserved for craftsmen's cars. Overnight camping will be as usual in the Village camping area across the access road, open as usual to craftsmen, Villagers and musicians.

Activities start both days at 10 AM and continue until 5 PM. Admission will remain at one dollar per adult, children under twelve free.

For the succeeding months the Village will host other festivals, the June one being the Traditional American Folk Music festival, with others to follow. Admission will remain the same.

For the thirteenth year, the Village starts out the year with one of its major fund-raising activities, using this occasion to continue to supply monies for the continuing work of restoration. As those goals grow, so does the reliance on the generation of funds that this and other festivals provide. Bring the family and enjoy the day, the countryside, and most important, the work that is ongoing at the Village.

STUDENT SUMMER WORKERS SCHEDULED

Once again there will be summer workers on the Village grounds doing maintenance work, lawn care, some landscaping and simple construction tasks around the buildings through the Warren County Manpower and Training Act, as there has for several past years.

Using Jim Merrick as Supervisor as he has served for the past several years, a total of eight youths should be on hand for 37 hours per week Monday through Friday rain or shine. Linda Lee has been named as his replacement if Jim is called on emergencies.

Several of the young people are back for a second, or even a third year of summer employment, while a majority of them are working at the Village for their first season.

INSURANCE BECOMING BIG PROBLEM

The one subject covering most time in meetings and causing the most concern these days is insurance and its effect on the Village.

According to Joe Worley, who has been doing most of the leg work, phone calling, interviewing and letter writing on the subject, most companies, if not all, are just not interested in insuring the Village under whatever arrangements can be made. In fact, at the present time the Village has no insurance coverage and is having an extremely difficult job finding another company to do the job.

Appeals have been made to the state of Ohio, the Corps of Engineers of the Army, Chief Ranger Debbie Chenoweth, and others for assistance with little luck, much sympathy and no results so far.

One of the results has been that the Village will not host the "school days" this spring (detailed in another article this month in the Log) and may not host other activities until the insurance issue is cleared up.

Previous to last year, insurance was not much of a matter other than

a routine matter, the necessary expense and allocation out of a meagre budget to cover the cost. Last year the cost of insurance rose sharply, but Trustees "bit the bullet" and met the expense.

This year the Grange Company, the previous insurer, informed the Trustees that the policy would not be renewed, as the Village was deemed to be too much of a risk. So far efforts to reinsure with another company has not been successful. It remains to be seen whether the summer will be remembered as the year of no activities or not. Of course, without festivals or other fund raising activities, no restoration funds will be available and progress as it has been recognized throughout the last thirteen years will cease.

It is no secret that the difficulty the Village is having with insurance is not unique to it alone, as it appears to be common with many other organizations.

APRIL NOT APRIL FOOLS AFTER ALL

In the previous Log it was reported that the Village sheep, Samantha had given birth to a new lamb, but its name had not been decided upon yet. This weighty matter was duly considered at the last Trustee's meeting and April was agreed upon.

Her name was very appropriate for several reasons: She was born the day after April's Fool Day, which almost brought her in that day. The day was significant, for all concerned was sure that Samantha was not pregnant, since in the opinion of the sheep experts she was not, and who could tell, since she was fat, large, had not been bred the year before and was wearing a heavy winter coat. So April the lamb became and the only fools were those who knew less than Samantha did about the subject.

April is an exceptionally large and healthy lamb and is enjoying the fresh grass of the Village green with her mother.

MUCH ADD ABOUT MANY THINGS NOW

Many things are going on at the Village now that the spring weather is finally here and the volunteers are out in force.

Becky Siva has been working hard in the Collett house to make it into an attractive place. She has put in a garden plat behind the house where assorted garden vegetables have been planted, or at least were planted until the last cold weather.

Inside much work has been done by several: Frank Crabtree has been putting flooring on the upstairs and have not much more to go. Several men have worked on the stairs and closet enclosure and have that well toward completion.

Much has been accomplished on the Thomas Heighway house also with the black powder group completing the roof purlins and getting most of the roof sheeting on as well as several rows of roof shakes. The windows are in as well.

Footers have been dug for the spring house and the Storer shed and blocks will be laid soon. The Harkrader barn has had the roof removed by Albert Jones and should be ready to move as soon as movers can be secured. Blocks for the foundation have been delivered.

Crops are in the ground (the earliest sorghum has ever been planted) of greater variety and more acreage than ever before. Gary Breeze, the newly appointed Trustee has been responsible for this. The Antique Machinery Club have also finished most

of the welding on the new sets of bleachers that will be put into use this summer.

Probably more progress is evident in the Bullskin Inn than any other building. Wristen Cole has the fireplace completed and is well on the way to having the chimney up to roof line. Don Richards and Steve Foley jacked up the rear corner and replaced a deteriorated log and then removed the entire rear log from the other rear corner in preparation to repair for the entire rear sill, badly in need of repair and replacement if another could be located.

Work on the Lukens barn has taken the shape of wiring by Joe Worley, setting up the deep freeze by Burnett Butterworth and Stan Ireton, cleaning the floor and hauling away debris by the trailerload.

Jim Merrick has found a replacement part for the tractor seat and he and David Hastell have tuned up the tractor.

Kat Spray has her flax patch put out again.

Dottie Hawke and her food committee have most of the food for the summer ordered and delivered, with the kitchen cleaned and ready to go.

WORKDAY WEEKEND SET FOR MAY 10,11

The workdays for May will be scheduled for either the 10th or 11th, with work on the grounds being of first priority. Work will start about 10AM and continue into the afternoon. If you have a trim mower, it can be well utilized.

SCHOOL DAYS CANCELLED FOR SPRING

Village Trustees moved recently to cancel the student seminars so popular with local schools that have been part of the Village program for many years. A letter of notification has been sent to participating schools informing them of the decision.

The reason for this abrupt change of policy is the fact that insurance cannot be negotiated soon enough to cover the Village, and the Trustees feel that they as well as the Village itself is too vulnerable without adequate insurance coverage.

TOLLHOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AGAIN

The Village will once again attempt to provide attendants at the counter in the Tollhouse for the weekends through the summer. Volunteers should contact either Burnett Butterworth or Ethel Jefferis. These positions are important ways to help the Village provide funds and still not labor in the hot sun. The attendants will be needed following the May festival for the remainder of the summer.

EVERYTHING GREEN ONCE AGAIN

After so many months of bleak and barren scenes, the Village once again is turning green, and is doing so with a vengeance.

The Green of the grass, the colors of the shrubs, the leaves of the trees and the smell and sound of the spring weather makes it a different place indeed.

MAKE THE SPRING AFFAIR YOUR AFFAIR

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