THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE

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MATCHING FUND GOES OVER THE TOP

THe effort to raise $2500 to match an equal amount pledged by the Iddings Foundation of Dayton went over the top and then some more as the Village's winter-long effort to raise money through donations, sales and gifts reached its goal.

Several local firms, banks, Savings and Loan Companies, and many individuals pitched in to make the first fund-raising effort by another means than through festival work successful. The Village barn sale described in another column in this issue also added to the total.

The $2500 plus the same amount from the Iddings Foundation will be used to place a roof on the Harkrader barn as soon as a crane can be secured big enough to handle the weight and height required for the job.

SCHOOL DAYS JUST ALL FILLED UP

Linda Lee reports that the spring school days, seminars for students by craftsmen located around the grounds, is full and has been for some time. She says that the fall session is filling up fast as well.

She says the three days set for the students, May 4, 5, and 6 are full, but Friday is particularly full with over three hundred coming in that day.

Scho ol days is an institution that was established early in the history of the Village and is becoming increasingly popular. About ten craftsmen are scheduled around the grounds at various locations for student instruction.

BLACKSMITH SHOP GETS HEARTH

The blacksmith shop is now getting a hearth built in the west end of the building, being constructed by members of the Friday crew. George Wall, Burnett Butterworth, Jack Bender and Stan Ireton are the construction crew for this project.

MAY FESTIVAL INAUGURATES SEASON

"The Way It Was" the theme for the first Village festival of the summer will be held at the Village May 21 and 22 from 10 AM till 5 PM both days. Admission charge will be the same as last year- $2 for each adult and 50¢ for children who come in under their own power, that is, not carried as infants or very small children.

Activities are about the same as last year with some notable additions, there will be craftsmen on the grounds, musicians on the stage and food in the kitchen. What else do you need for a good time? A day at the area enables the visitors to participate in a first class folk festival, visit the displays at the Visitor's Center, try out the boat do a little fishing and some swimming (if the water is warm enough) hike, sightsee, enjoy a picnic lunch or eat the genuine American food (corn bread and beans) served at the Village, and return home only a short drive away and all for very little money.

The Village activities and those of the park can be incorporated into a full day's enjoyment.

This year there will again be a series of prizes given for the most authentically dressed persons in pioneer clothing, man, woman, boy and girl and then family. Judging will take place at the stage area at 2 PM both days. Those wishing to be judged will need to register at the gate, and those winning will have their admission refunded.

And something new and different this year- Pioneer Olympics! This team (two people) contest will have the chance to perform four everyday chores of the frontier household; saw wood, carry water, dig a post hole, and haul a wheelborrow load a short distance. Winners will get a trophy and their names inscribed in the Pioneer Homestead Hall of Fame! The permanent plaque will be kept in the Tollhouse for public viewing from year to year.

Make a day of it. Bring the family for a day of family fun!

STORE ADDITION CONTRACT LET

Following a list of priorities set some time ago, the major building endeavor for the Village this summer will be an addition to the rear of the General Store that will about double the sales area.

Trustees voted recently to enlarge the store by adding on a board-and-batton addition to the rear of that building to be as wide as the building and 24 feet long. A porch will be built to match the side porch already there along the west side of the addition. Provisions for a water hook-up will also be put in.

The contract to do the building was given to Allen Ireton, a Warren County custom builder. THe building should begin by the first of May. The building will protect the rear of the existing log structure and give badly needed sales space to the often overcrowded store building.

MEETING HOUSE BENEFACTOR DIES

The Village was saddened to learn of the death of Phyllis Hollingsworth who had been a principal benefactor in her support of the funds for the Caesar's Creek Friends Meetinghouse. We have been informed that memorial gifts made in her memory can be directed to the Village in her name.

CLEAN UP DAY DECLARED SUCCESSFUL

Ohio's Clean Up or Green Up day, Saturday, April 16 was successful according to Linda Lee, Coordinator and the various state and federal personnel that participated in it. About twenty or so people showed up at the Village and together with a few Village volunteers cleaned up the grounds, hauled trash, emptied garbage barrels, aided Mic Richards in the herb garden, swept out buildings and washed windows, put out picnic tables, and in general got things ready for summer use.

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Permit No. 43

Thanks to everyone for the matching fund's success

MOWING BEGINS FOR THE SUMMER

One of the surest ways to know that the summer season has arrived is to watch the grass grow- and in the case of the Village, to once again get the mowers out to tackle the job of keeping it short enough to look cared for.

This year like several in the past, Jim Merrick will do the bulk of the mowing with the Village tractor and the trimming will be done mostly by occasional help. The Ford tractor is still in the repair shop where it has been all winter, so it and the trusty Woods bush hog will not start out the season. But last fall the Antique Farm Machinery group bought a belly mower for the Allis-Chalmers tractor and it is hooked up and appears to be working fine, according to the appearance of the grass recently. By the time the season is in full swing, both tractors should be operational.

The Village is employing a local young manwho has worked on grounds maintenance for the past two years to work again, and most of the hand work will be done by him on a one-day-a-week basis similar that last year. Other mowing will be handled by volunteers.

VILLAGE GARDENS SET TO GO

The several plots of ground at the Village have been turn over or in the case of the small ones, roto-tilled. The flax plot near the Githens house is ready for planting and the corn patch next to the Furnas house has also been tilled.

Yet to go are the larger ones, one for the Village sorghum crop and another for the Antique Farm Machinery crops that are harvested and thrashed as part of the Antique Farm Machinery. show in August. The sorghum must be planted very soon as it requires a long growing season and then it is harvested almost before it is ready in the fall. The Caesar's Creek area is about as far north as this crop can be safely grown.

15th BIRTHDAY PARTY HELD

About fifty members of the Village gathered at the Der Deutchler restaurant April 23 to observe the Village's 15th birthday.

Chuck Parrish, Corps of Engineers' historian and anthropologist from the headquarters office at Louisville was the guest of honor and spoke, also bringing greetings from the Colonial in charge. Miriam Lukens spoke reminiscing of the origin of the Village and Don Richards read a paper reviewing progress over the past fifteen years. Michelle Ghearing described the status of the Antique Farm Machinery Club of which she is Secretary-Treasurer.

Particularly honored were Homer and Eda Marsh for their years of service.

BARN SALE RAISES $456.95

The first ever barn sale the Village has ever tried turned out to be quite successful, much to the delight of many, the surprise of a few, and the relief of all. A total of $456.95 was gleaned off some fifteen tables spread out in front of the Lukens barn in the welcome sunlight of a Saturday and Sunday in April.

Several donations of many items were received for sale, filling the tables with a variety of paraphanalia that could only gladden the hearts of inveterate flea market devotees. Business was brisk over Saturday but lagged considerably on Sunday. The largest donation was by Miriam Lukens who gave a rocking chair that sold for $50. Miriam was also the organizing force behind the effort.

NEW BROCHURE FINALLY OUT

The newest in a long line of brochures for the Village is finally out and ready for summer distribution.

Twenty thousand were printed, as it seldom seems we have enough of any brochures to last a single season. An additional two thousand of the color brochures (new last year) were also reprinted. This supply it is hoped, will last for the summer and well into next summer as well. Brchures are popular with travel and tourist bureaus and agencies and many thousand are sent upon request to them.