THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK PIONEER VILLAGE

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MAY FESTIVAL COMING UP

Once again the Village is initiating its summer activities with a spring festival, the "Way It Was" a theme that has been popular for the past few years.

Incorporated this year into the activities will be a quilt show with quilts from selected sources among the friends and members of the Village. There will also be the usual food, music, craftsmen and demonstators around the Village green.

There will be civil war reenactment groups on the grounds, the Old Machinery Club will have a display and the building's interiors will depict in as many ways possible life in the first to mid-1800's.

The entrance fee charge will remain as the same for the past several years, two dollars for adults and children twelve and under fifty cents. By that time there will be new lambs, some baby chicks and hopefully other domestic animals. Of cou rse the two goats and the sheep will be present.

The spring festival marks the "official" opening of the Village even though the gates will be open from the school days dates at the first of May. The Village offers a good opportunity to visit the park, enjoy the Village, and get out in the great out-of-doors for some fun and activity.

TOLLHOUSE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Tollhouse volunteers are needed for the summer season, particularly for weekend dates and special holiday days and festivals.

Experience has indicated that the tollhouse operates much more effeciently if there is an attendant on duty- to answer questions, give directions, ask for donations and maintain a liaison between the Village and visitors. The money collected on weekends with attendants is significantly higher than on those without, regardless of the weather, time of day or season of the year.

Without an attendant, visitors merely walk through and on. With one, they tarry, talk, and donate. Being an attendant does not involve any great responsibility or encyclopaedic knowledge of history or the Village. But visitors respect the Village and have a higher regard for the things in it if it appears that there is a person who is volunteering to assume a responsible position in it, such as an attendant. The Village has to increasingly rely tollhouse donations as insurance rates and administrative expenses continue to rise.

Please indicate that you can help one day (or even a half day) once in a while. LInda Lee has a calendar that yourname can be marked on, to come on out, sit in the tollhouse, read a book, bring a picnic lunch, enjoy the fresh air. The Village contains many ways that volunteer help can contribute to the progress so obvious on all sides- not all people are able to mow lawn, chink buildings or restore buildings. Your presence in the Tollhouse will also contribute greatly along with the rest of us.

Phone Linda 897 2672, or Don Richards 987 6546 or Burnett Butterworth 897 4218 to get you r name listed.

CIVIL WAR GROUP USE EXPANDING

Various companies of the civil war groups that use and participate in Village activities and festivals have indicated they are interested in expanding their use of and particpation in the Village, according to a conversation with Henry Block, Commanding General of the Army of the Cumberland, the umbrella military organization for this part of the nation.

In general they would favor the use of a building in the Village they could call their own that could house a more or less permanent display and collection of civil war memorabilia. Such a building could be manned by soldiers on the weekends and would be center of civil war reenactment activities during all festival times.

The Trustees have yet to reach a decision o n this development.

BLACKSMITH SHOP LOOKS UP

Much of the Friday crew's concentration this winter has been on the blacksmith shop, a building that had stood "ready for restoration" for some years. After the original logs were in place and then later a lean-to was built on the end, the building got scant further attention.

Now i t is starting to look like a blacksmith could actually set up shop and start turning out the iron essentials so necessary to settlement days.

Last year the men working on it laid the chimney and constructed the forge, closing in the big square hole in the west end. The north window was lowered and a log was set in place above it. Then the south window (which had really been a door) was closed up. Recent ly a sliding door has been hung between the lean-to and the main building for security sake. The men are now building cabinets for tool storage and preparing the floor (which will be gravel) so it will be level.

Jack Bender donated a large anvil and Jack Ohmart spent much time is his own workshop this winter building a beautiful bellows which were an essential piece of equipment for a shop. He gave it to the Village recently.

A particularly sticky problem has recently been solved when they tiled the ground inside, draining an accumulation of water that persisted in settling there. This spring it had become so muddy it was difficult to work.

Certainly many of the readers of the Log have blacksmithing tools stored away that could be put to good use for demonstration and use. Their donation would help.

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Permit No. 43

Can you volunteer some time at the tollhouse this summer? We need your help.

WORK ON SCALE HOUSE GOES ON

The Old Farm Machinery club of Pioneer Village has been working on a scale building in their spare time over the winter months. The ramps to the building and the posts for the roof are in place, waiting on lumber from the sawmill to complete the roof. It should be a very substantial and attractive building when completed.

This scales were donated by the Clinton County Fair Board from the fair grounds where it stood for many years. Since it was unused and was to be torn down, it was given to the Village instead.

Scales are necessary for a pulling contest such as the club sponsors each August, since tractors qualify according to weight among other requirements. THe rental of scales was one of the major expenses in previous contests.

Another expense has been the rental of the pulling sled, a complex and bulky machine that increasess the weight of the pull as the tractor pulls the sled forward from a starting line. The club had been renting the sled from a Hillsboro farm club that had one of the few royalty free sleds in existance. After a few sleds were manufactured and sold, they became so popular that it was determined to levy a royalty on their use. THe Hillsboro one was one of the first made before royalties were required. The Pioneer Village club bought the Hillsboro sled last fall with Haunted Hayride money, so another major expense is now being saved.

Another piece of equipment, the large roller used to smooth the track after each pull has been made by welding two sections of a road roller together, so the Old Machinery Club has about all the equipment needed for tractor pulling now.

NEW FOOD PURVEYOR TO BEGIN

Since it has become increasingly difficult to get adequate and lasting volunteers in the Village kitchen and food has become a major consideration of festival go-ers, the Trustees have decided to turn over the operation of the kitchen and the preparation and selling of food for major events and whatever special events also scheduled to a selected purveyor who will assume responsibility for all Village-originated food. This will include food served at the kitchen, barbecue building and other places on the grounds where additional booths may be set up.

The Village will continue with the candy sales at the store, special foods that are part of special activities such as apple butter or hominy, and the "taste treats" in the June pioneer food and music festival.

T he purveyor will assume all responsibility for ordering, preparing, selling, and storing items and foodstuffs and cleaning and maintaining the buildings for sanitary operations. He will use the Village's equipment, but will be charged for gas, electric, and any other operational expenses. He will empoy or secure the help needed for his operations. The traditional menus for the Village will be kept.

For many years past the Village has had to rely on situations where lack of volunteers, illness and many adverse circumstances all contributed to making the food operation the most tenuous of all the volunteer areas. Dottie Hawke handled it all with great ease, but since she has turned to volunteering in other areas of the Village, a replacement has not come forth.

SCHOOL DAYS CHUCK FULL

School days, the craftsmen-held seminars for children on May 3,4, and 5 have been full for months, according to Linda Lee who is coordinating them again this year. She says we could have had nearly twice as many had we room or volunteers to handle them.

The Trustees are thinking of expanding this popular aspect of the Village and maybe de-emphasizing some other aspect, possibly a public festival.