

THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE

Vol. XI Issue 8
August 1986

HARVEST FESTIVAL TO END YEAR

The fall harvest festival, a two-day affair scheduled for September 20 and 21, from 10 AM to 5 PM daily, will be the final public event for the year and promises to be the largest and most extensive one as well.

Linda Lee, who is coordinating the event, says that there will be more craftsmen of a more variety nature on the grounds than for any of the other festivals, plus music both days and wagon rides and food and mountain men plus the atmosphere of fall. The highlight will be the harvesting of the Village's sorghum cane crop and the boiling of it into molasses which will then be sold on the grounds.

This festival, the oldest of the Village's public activities, will be the final opportunity for the Village to garner funds with which to continue the restoration work set for 1986 and to continue on into 1987 until once again opportunities come to again fund the work carried on there over the years.

Volunteers will be needed for kitchen help, operation of the drink booths, help in admitting patrons at the parking gate, help in the herb garden, help to set up and interpret the houses, help in the tollhouse, and of course much help in mowing, trimming, and preparing the grounds and buildings prior to the event.

Admission is again set at \$2 per adult and 50¢ per child under 12. The Worleys are handling the publicity releases and mailings for the media.

FOUR BENCHES DEDICATED

Four benches, placed around the Village green at intervals designed to provide rest for visitors, have been purchased and two are in the process of having routed identifications

FARM MACHINERY SHOW BIG SUCCESS

The farm machinery show, recently held at the Village, was without a doubt the highlight of the 1986 season so far, and a much better show than the one last year. Managed by the Warren County Antique Farm Machinery Club, and assisted by Village volunteers, the multifaceted show provided an entertaining time for all to see, hear, and feel.

Almost exhausting themselves in the process of running, managing, coordinating, and handling the publicity, printing, prizes, and progress of hundreds of entries tractors, harvest activities and an ongoing tractor pull, Gary Breeze and others who worked with him gave the spectators a memorable show, an interesting good time, and time well worth the admission fee.

In addition, the Friday night horse pull, a first for the Village, was very well received, by those who came to see it from a broad area of the state, and the participants themselves, who felt the time and place ideal for such an event.

Nearly all the activity took place at the pulling track.

VILLAGE INTERESTED IN SAWMILL

The Village has learned of several items of a historical nature stored in unused buildings on the Ft. Ancient property that may be acquired from the Ohio Historical Society, since the buildings may be scheduled for demolition.

The most important item stored there is a 1800's sawmill, which according to Trustee Gary Breeze would make a good demonstration at the Village if it could be brought in and set up in working order again. It is stored in a pile of pieces, but apparently complete.

MANPOWER WORKERS WIND UP WORK

The young people from the Warren County manpower and job training office, commonly known as CETA workers, have finished their jobs for the summer and have returned to late summer vacations, school sports and school itself.

Starting with eight and reduced to six part way through the six week working season, the group did mostly landscaping work, sign painting, cleaning and mowing. Several days were spent on the Inn, several on the Collett house, and the rest on ongoing projects set for them by their supervisor.

HOMEcoming PARTY OCT. 25

The Village is once again inviting all the years' volunteers and participants to a Oct. 25 party at the Village for stew, a hay ride, square dancing, and other Halloween type fun. It is set to be a way of showing appreciation for the work and dedication shown throughout the year.

Coordinator Linda Lee has been attempting to develop a list of all those who have been in any way helpful to the Village this year, but the list is getting longer and she hopes complete as well. She urges everyone to come if they have volunteered or helped this year even though their name may have been overlooked on the list.

A good time and good food is promised and a real fall party.

CORN FESTIVAL BOOTH SET

The Village set up and manned a booth at the Wilmington Corn Festival again this year, this year in the 4-H building.

Linda Lee set up the booth and removed it with volunteers scheduling themselves to be on

HARKRADER BARN LOGS MOVED IN

The Thompson Construction Company of Spring Valley, users of heavy equipment and employed in many extensive local projects specializing in earth moving, utility lines, roads, and other construction jobs where heavy equipment is used, hauled a track hoe to the Harkrader barn site off Greentree Road a week ago to take down and load and then haul and unload the large log Harkrader barn that the Village has been working on for over a year now.

Jeff Patton, who was in charge of the job, estimated that about eighty logs were brought in, nearly all twenty feet in length, many eighteen inches wide, and all of walnut wood, were in the two loads. His crew were on the site at 7 and delivered the last load to the Village by 4:30 in the afternoon to a crew there that assisted in unloading them in the parking lot where they will be separated and then hauled to the barn site for erection later this fall.

Much work had already been done on the building. During the summer of 1985 crews from the Village had gone to the barn to remove side additions, take down interior structures, clear the site of brush and vines, mark the logs and prepare the building for moving. During the this past winter two local farmers had removed the roof and

much of the sheeting.

The building had waited all summer for the movers, with those of the Village holding their breath for fear of vandalism from nearby urban areas. Now that the logs are on Village property, all can rest easier.

This building has been the most difficult to work on, due to its isolated location, large size, and extensive preparatory work needed, of all the log buildings that have been moved into Pioneer Village.

Last year a fund raising campaign was held to raise enough money to move the barn, and although over five thousand dollars were given to the project by Villagers and friends of the Village, more will be needed to complete the re-construction and get it under roof.

The barn comes from a site composed of several buildings in addition to the barn, all located deep in the woods and fields near Middletown, probably long before surveyed roads were serving southwestern Ohio, and located probably in the center of land originally settled by the Harkrader family. As roads were constructed, the families of the area built along them, leaving the buildings as a tenant farm site back a long lane behind the new set of buildings on Greentree Road. As the lane gradually became impassible, the buildings were abandoned

and allowed to serve on storage needs of the farm, and then not used at all as all farm activity centered around buildings easily served by roads and market oriented vehicles. At the present time the farm is regarded as development land for ever expanding Middletown, and will soon cease as a farm at all. It is estimated that the barn was built in 1802 or 03, which makes it as old as the state of Ohio itself!

The Thompson Construction Company has moved several other Village buildings in over the years, and has been most valuable in the creation of the Village with the donation of heavy equipment, log building construction assistance, and operators.

STORM DAMAGES LARGE TREE

A violent summer storm, much like a tornado, accompanied by heavy rain caused some damage to the grounds of the Village recently, toppling a large maple tree in the front yard of the Lukens house, which also took most of two other trees with it.

The trunk, too large for conventional chain saws, was sawed up by Stan Ireton and the debris and limbs were cleaned up by the summer CETA workers. A large log will be salvaged to provide lumber for the Village, if equipment can be secured to handle it.

The kitchen needs help Sept. 20 & 21

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