

THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE

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FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL NEXT

Pioneer Village's fall harvest festival, the culmination of the season's activities and the time when crops planted throughout the year are set before the public for sale is scheduled for the third weekend of September, the 17th and 18th from 10 AM till 5 PM both days. Admission charges remain at \$2 for adults and 50¢ for children 12 or under.

Traditionally the time when the largest crowds turn out, the most craftsmen are on the grounds, the weather is the best and most dependable, and the autumn season is at its beginning, this festival winds up a year that has been busy, hot and eventful.

As usual there will be music on the stage, food in the kitchen, the cider press a-running, molasses being made from the cane at the mill and boiling shed, apple butter being made by the Kilstrons, hominy and other foods available, and good family entertainment available. A time to welcome in the harvest time. One of Ohio's first harvest festivals.

Pioneer Village welcomes those who like harvest time festivals, those who regularly come to them, and everyone for a day in the country and the past.

CANE WILL NEED STRIPPERS

Elsewhere in this newsletter the size and height of the sorghum cane has been discussed. A good crop is anticipated, but good crop or no, it still needs hands in the fields to strip, cut, haul and man the mill and furnace both Saturday and Sunday. Becky Siva, the molasses maker will need help at all places.

Historians rhapsodize over the past, sometimes glossing over the pains in favor of the pleasures. A few hours stripping cane cane can establish a greater understanding of the type of work our forefathers took for granted and expected,

MACHINERY SHOW BEST YET

The recent Old Machinery Club's weekend of activities; the show, the small engine display, the line up of old tractors, the horse pull and antique tractor pull, the thrashing and baling and other contests and activities made the most recent and fourth public activity of the summer the biggest and best yet despite more handicaps than the others.

Things were well organized and all set to go until Friday evening when the heavens opened up and the Village was favored with nearly two inches of rain which cancelled the horse pull and put everything else on hold. A soggy Saturday forenoon saw more mud on the grounds than had been witnessed for years, with cars stuck in the parking lot and a pulling track too wet to even walk on.

Other activities were put on and slowly the sun came out and things started to dry. By mid day the mud was drying and most of the exhibitors had arrived. By seven in the evening the tractor pull commenced and continued until nearly eleven that night before the classes scheduled were finished. Sunday was fair and dry and the pulling continued with the horse pull coming off in the early afternoon to a smaller number of teams than had come Friday evening. The remainder of the tractor pulls continued until completed in the early evening.

Probably the highlight of the entire show was the saw mill busily sawing logs powered by the Smith steam engine that dominated the scene. Loads of lumber went forth as log after log was converted into boards.

The store did well and the kitchen sold out. Craftsmen reported a brisk sale. All in all the show was well worth waiting for and spectators appeared to go home satisfied with a busy two days of entertainment. Now the group tackles the hauled hayride!

BIRTHDAY PARTY HELD AT PAVILION

A birthday party for Annafrances Riddle was hosted by Linda Lee and held under the picnic pavilion several days ago with probably about fifty attending throughout the Sunday afternoon of the 13th.

Cake and punch was served and gifts and cards received.

BARBARA LEE HAS BABY BOY

Nearly too late to put in the last newsletter, news that Barbara Lee was the mother of a baby boy is still current news as his presence (and voice) can be heard in and around the kitchen area.

Daniel is the newest of three brothers, all veteran Villagers who can be seen playing and helping in the herb garden and Head Shed behind the Lukens barn. Dan, mother, grandmother and great grandmother are all doing well!

HISLE REPAIRS VILLAGE MOWER DECK

Steve Hisle recently took the Allis Chalmers mower deck that had fractured due to old age to his shop in Miamisburg and did some extensive welding on it and made it as good as new and probably quite a bit stronger in the bargain. Several of the men at the Village discovered that a grease fitting was blocked by the repair, so a hole was put in a cross brace for a grease gun to fit, and presto! another fifty years of use!

MACHINERY SCALES NOW COMPLETE

The machinery scales, donated by the Clinton County Fair Board and put in place and engineered by members of the Old Machinery Club, is now working as it should and has served well during the recent Old Machinery days just finished. It is estimated that it is about sixty to seventy years old.

Part of the sawmill operation at the Old Machinery days was to saw a frame roof and posts for it, together with the ramps added, will make it useful and durable.

Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village
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Pioneer Village is looking for a few good harvest hands; or even a lot of 'em!

CROPS STAGE A COMEBACK

Pioneer Village crops this year have definitely been mixed and varied. The long dry spell through part of May, all of June, July and part of August set the crops that were in the ground back for many weeks with little or no growth visible. Then in August the rains started and since then have been reasonably well spaced and abundant, starting growth again and bringing most of them to a point where they look like possibly the middle of July.

Indications and conversations with surrounding farmers seem to indicate that although the season is much later than usual, barring an unusually early frost most of the crops will be ready for harvest by the middle to the end of September.

The corn plants have heavy ears hanging over now and the soy beans are chest high in many fields. The Village sorghum cane is as tall, thick and heavy as it has ever been seen. A good crop is predicted for that. In fact, the Village may have a surplus of corn in which case several farmers may wish to buy some to supplement their own meager yields.

The area around the Village is as green as it ever was and the grass is growing faster for August than usual. The Old Farm Machinery Club's pumpkin patch has big pumpkins in several stages of growth, guaranteeing some for the haunted hayride later on in October.

The hominy (hickory king) patch did not produce, however, but the Indian corn looks good and the farm club's field corn is especially high,

The herb garden is making a rebound and there will be some apples. The pear trees are loaded.

Readers are reminded that big cane means a greater effort toward stripping it and getting it ready for the fall harvest and the harvest festival.

STUFFED ANIMALS NEED A HOME

The Village owns quite an extensive collection of stuffed animals, all of them native to this part of the country and good specimens for educational use and just interesting to see. A problem is: what to do with them. At the present time they are perched around the edge of the Lukens barn floor.

It has been suggested that they could be placed in display cases with a background of painted or arranged material representative of the forest and fields in which they would be found. The Village is looking for some volunteer to undertake this project so that they can be preserved, kept in safety, and presented in an attractive manner. Eventually they will become part of a museum display when one of the houses becomes such a display area.

Anyone interested in such a project can call either Linda Lee at 897 2672 or Don Richards at 897 6546 for information and/or encouragement.

AND THE WORK JUST GOES ON

Several individuals or groups of individuals are busily working on their own particular projects, carrying on the work of restoration and enhancing the Village with their volunteer labor.

Joe Worley and Herb Schwartz are repairing the Lukens house logs. Burnett Butterworth, George Wall, Stan Ireton and Jack Bender are in the blacksmith shop chinking inside walls. Roy McDonald is working on the store addition. Don Richards is putting in the tollhouse foundation and Steve Hisle is chinking the inside of the Furnas house. Barry Lee has been mowing lawn and helping Jim. Frank Crabtree is busy at the Highway cabin and Mic Richards has the herb garden in full force. Of course many others are equally important- Sharon with her money and books, the Worleys with the mailing and publicity, Ethel and George in the gatehouse, Barbara and Michelle in the kitchen. So many to run a village!

VILLAGE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE

Pioneer Village has decided not to provide a booth at the Waynesville Sauerkraut festival after a rather unfortunate experience last year. Citing not enough people to adequately run the operation, it was decided to just offer the Village as a source of entertainment and experience during the sauerkraut week end instead, with the store open and possibly food being served to visitors.

Also last year were a day or so of dismal weather, competition for the product being served, a complex booth to run, inconvenient transport and supply of the chili and a much more successful event following closely; that of the haunted hayride as well as difficulty finding enough people to serve.