

THE VILLAGE LOG

Maple Syrup

1986

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE
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TIME TO THE ANNUAL SUGARBUSH

As of the writing of this newsletter, the annual operation of the sugar camp, or "sugarbush" as they are known in knowledgeable circles, is in operation out behind the Hatfield house. So far the plastic along the east side has been put up and the tapping has been mostly completed.

Tapping was carried out by Jim Merrick with some friends recently with a few added by the Richards a few days later. At the present time about seventy five buckets are out on about fifty trees, mostly in the same locations as in the past years. They are all in the vicinity of the woods to the rear of the furnace shed and on down toward the lake. Three twenty gallon cans have been filled with fresh sap and boiling will begin as soon as the pan is set, a job for Hiner Marsh, who supervises the operation each year.

Tapping, boiling, the manufacture of maple syrup, and the associated mud, labor, wind, cold, good times and good food is a true rite of the springtime, which may seem weeks away, but in reality is just under the surface of the ground, as the pump of the sun and the frosty nights activate the annual event.

The annual pancake dinner with true maple syrup made on the spot has been set for March 9, the second Sunday of March from 2 to 4 PM. The event is open to members of the Village and their guests. The food will be furnished free, but a donation can will be available just in case.

LATE WINTER TRIP PLANNED FOR ALL

A trip is being planned to Old Washington, Kentucky a small town about an hour and a half's worth of driving from Warren County. Old Washington is a restored town similar to Waynesville or Lebanon with good, it has been stated, restaurants. The trip is planned for April 5, from the Waynesville area, starting at 10 AM. Contact Linda Lee at 897 2672 if you wish to go.

LUKENS FINISHES REGISTER RESEARCH

Miriam Lukens, who has been working on the chain of title, previous land divisions, former owners, and clues to buildings construction for the land surrounding and beneath the Lukens house from various Warren County Historical documents, reported at the last meeting that she had sent the results of her some six months worth of work on to Chuck Parrish, historian for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who will then prepare it for submission to the appointed officer of this section of the state for nomination to the National Historical Register of Historic Places.

It is thus on its way to inclusion in that honored and singular group of buildings or groups of buildings in the United States accorded the protection of demolition, specific financial advantages, and listing as outstanding and significant historic places to visit.

The Lukens house is the only one among the fifteen or so historic structures in the Village to qualify for listing, since it is the only building to remain on its original site, one of the requirements for such an inclusion. All the other buildings have been moved from somewhere else.

OLD PLOW FINDS A NEW LIFE

It sometimes goes without saying that you never know the application of an end when the beginning is started. Last spring several Villagers located some used farm machinery for sale along Center Road, made an offer, and brought it back to the Village. Among the items was a large, old, heavy, two-bottom pull type plow of the type used in the 40's. The Village had no use for it, but couldn't afford to pass it up, as it was part of the stuff bought.

Now it is to be traded for a type of plow that the antique machinery club members can use to work the Village ground by a man who can use the one the Village has. He had been looking for one!

HARKRADER BARN BID GOES TO JONES

Albert Jones and his son was given the job of removing the metal roof from the Harkrader barn during the next month or so. Much of the better roofing he wants himself, which the Trustees gave him, and the remainder will be piled so it can be buried.

Previously a group of Villagers and members of the Antique Machinery Club worked together to remove the rest of the inside of the rear addition, the rest of the side additions and clean up the overhangings in the front. They were forced to walk to the site due to the impassible road conditions leading to it. Dry weather will be imperative to bring the logs out.

Don Patton on behalf of Thompson Construction Company has offered to dig the footers for the walls at the new site at the Village.

INN PROGRESS GOES AHEAD DURING MONTH

Not too much happened at the Bullskin Inn over the past month due to cold weather and wet ground. A ditch was dug to drain the foundation and some holes were dug for rear beam footers, but cement will not be poured until warmer and drier weather.

Two footers were placed underneath the front sill and another will be needed. Two rear logs at the bottom of the corners will have to be replaced, which will necessitate jacking up both rear corners so that replacement logs can be inserted, no small task.

As soon as weather improves, landscape work can be started in the front.

WORKWEEKEND WORK SCHEDULED NEXT

Since the Log came out to late for the last month, the workweekend passed by before the information came out, so the same work will be scheduled for March as was set up previously. Work at the Inn will be the goal with cleaning up around the front and as much landscaping work as the weather will allow.

The workweekend for March is set for March 8 at around 10 AM.

MUSIC SOCIETY RECORDS ATTENDANCE

A record number of members of the Caesar's Creek Dulcignier Society met in the Lukens house Feb. 13, played together, roasted some hot dogs in the fireplace, and had a good if a little cool meeting. The meeting lasted from five till around nine. A feature of the music were several civil war songs which they will play for the civil war reenactment this July as a dress ball is being planned for the reenactment personnel on Saturday night.

The next meeting is scheduled for the Lukens house March 10 for the same time period. Those who wish to join the group and play an "old time" musical instrument or who wish to learn, are welcome to attend.

DEEPFREEZE PURCHASED RECENTLY

Through the efforts of Gary Breeze, the Village learned of a used deep freeze for sale by the Village restaurant of Waynesville. It and several other pieces of cooling equipment were for sale when the restaurant consolidated all their cooling equipment into one new large walk-in freezer. An offer of \$100 was accepted by the restaurant from Don Richards who will see that it is moved to the Village as soon as possible.

Although the Village already owns two such chest-type deep freezers, an additional one was needed last summer primarily to keep ice stored in for the various cold drink concessions operating at festival times.

The other two are used in the kitchen facility and this will probably be put in a location where those needing ice can gain easy access.

VILLAGE CANDLE VAT READY FOR USE

Joe Worley, Burnett Butterworth and George Wall recently repaired the candle vat that the Village had used for several years, but had sprung a leak and had not been used recently.

A new drum to hold water for heating the tallow has been installed and the electric connections hooked to it. It should be ready to use for the summer's activities.

WINTER HIKE SUCCESSFUL AGAIN

The state park's annual winter hike was deemed a success in spite of the rather chilly day, ample mud for all, and predictions of snow. Hikers came from the dam area and walked to the Village, where Boy Scouts served ambrosia in the form of bean soup in styrofoam cups, coffee and drinks.

At times it appeared as if there were about as many park personnel around the fires near the barbecue building where the food was served, as there were hikers, but the Village served all well. The grounds appeared muddy, but straw put down by the rangers kept lawn damage to a minimum.

Linda Lee reported that over 300 where there and the scouts grossed a total of \$347.71 for their beans.

ANTIQUE FARM GROUP TO GET A SITE

Members of the Antique Farm Machinery Club are negotiating to set up and purchase a saw mill which they wish to place on Village grounds this summer. An offer of logs to be sawed in the mill has been made, from which the lumber for the saw mill building will be constructed. They will confer with Trustees as to an appropriate site for the building.

HEIGHWAY HOUSE GETS ROOF PURLINS

A work session by the black powder group under the direction of Jeff Richards spent a recent Saturday in ankle deep mud working on the Heighway house, which is slowly taking shape on the ridgetop to the rear of the Githens house.

Most of the day's work was spent getting the roof purlins in place for the roof. Purlins are small logs that run across the roof space between the front and rear gable ends to which the shakes or pailings are put. This method of construction is authentic as far as research by the group goes.

About half the purlins are in place with the remainder to be put up on the next workday for the group which will be March 1 from 10 AM on.

MERRICK TO GET FORD TRACTOR RUNNING

Jim Merrick is going to do some seasonal repair on the Village tractor and see if it can be running again before the summer season of intense use arrives. It has been laid up for much of the winter. Jim thinks that points, condenser, distributor cap and other minor repairs may bring it back to health again.

BARN SITE CHOSEN BY VILLAGERS

In a recent meeting of the barn committee, it was recommended that the barn be placed in the area to the rear of the Furnace House to the rear of the barnyard with easy access to the rest of the farm complex, and still be seen from the Green. The barn is so large it will dominate the rest of the buildings if it is placed too close to the pedestrian pathway.

The Village will have to have your help this year - volunteer regularly

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