

Maple Syrup 1989 THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE

Febr. 1989

BUDGET MEETING HELD

A budget meeting was held at the Richards Sunday, January 29 with officers and Trustees in attendance. Ham and beans and cornbread was served along with dessert which followed.

The purpose of the meeting was to prepare a budget for 1989 allocating the Village's existing and contemplated monies to the various projects, activities, encumbered accounts. Also much discussion was held about the amounts of earnings to be generated by the year's activities and ways to improve upon them.

The meeting was similar in direction and purpose to other meetings held in previous years when the serious business of planning a Village's year of earnings and expenditures, carrying on the restoration activities and at the same time paying the ever-rising costs of operation.

Time was when the concern of such a meeting was mainly the nuts and bolts of restoring the buildings of the Village and their contents, but now that takes a secondary seat to things like insurance, salaries, utilities, and maintenance, with restoration receiving a smaller and smaller percentage of the pie.

The meeting convened at noon and a satisfactory budget had been hammered out by 5, with a dish of beans somewhere in between.

JEFF DAVIS RIFLES TO HOLD CAMP

Again this spring the Jeff Davis Rifles, a Confederate Civil War Re-enactment group that is probably the most authentic of them all will hold an overnight encampment at the Village, April 15 and 16 with the days devoted to mostly drill and organization for the year coming up. Although this is a private group and there are no public activities planned for the Village at this time, visitors are welcome.

MAPLE SYRUP A SWEET MEMORY

The 1989 maple syrup season was better than average, according to those that worked in it and could compare past seasons with the present one. Linda Lee reports that there were over forty pints sold and quite a bit consumed during the Sunday pancake brunch on March 5.

Homer and Edna Marsh who had been very active in previous years were confined to mostly advice this one, although they did can and label and strain and do the final boiling in their kitchen.

Frank Crabtree and Linda Lee have done most of the boiling this year, and from the rich amber color of the syrup and the consistency of it leaves no doubt that although this has been their first year as boilers, it has been a good one.

About a hundred buckets were put out, some rather a far haul away in the woods. The new lids given by the Roscoe Furnas estate were very helpful in keeping the syrup clean and consequently lighter in color. The weather has been fairly cooperative this spring with few drenching rains, little very cold weather and quite a few days when the sun pumped the sap up through the roots of the maples from freshly thawed ground.

Most of the carrying of the sap has been done by Charles and Jackie Collins, members of the farm machinery club and regulars to show up, take two pickle buckets in hand and disappear over the hill, returning with brimming buckets somewhat later. Such work is no easy task, mud, slippery leaves and steep slopes taken into consideration.

Seadog, the Merricks dog, made it her point to accompany all in the woods and even their cat came down and chased mice out of the storage building where they apparently had been nesting. The slab wood from saw mill kept the furnace going.

PIE SAFE REFINISHED

A pie safe has been one of the projects for the Friday crew this winter with surprisingly excellent results. The item arrived in pieces, partly missing and partly refinished. It was taken to Jeff Vice's shop in Lebanon for stripping and then new panelling has been made for the missing parts and is now ready to take its place to help furnish one of the many needed places around the Village.

APRIL A GOOD MONTH TO HELP

Through the winter sometimes it seems as if outside or volunteer projects are beyond one's reach—it is much nicer to curl up in the old chair and monitor the TV.

But as spring starts to stir the blood and the weather beckons to outside attractions, one's thoughts turn to what can be done at places that need volunteer helpers. Such as Pioneer Village.

Many projects beckon: Come on out on a Saturday or Sunday and see what can be done. The Village offers opportunities for everyone.

HARKRADER LOGS TAKEN DOWN

The Old Machinery Club members recently took down all the Harkrader barn logs that had been in the pen that had been erected a couple years ago. After they had been lifted to place it was discovered that the logs were two inches longer than the footer that had been poured and laid for them. At that impasse several solutions to the dilemma was discussed, but in the final analysis it was decided to take them all back down again and pour a wider footer and lay blocks to support the logs in a correct manner.

At the same time the footers were poured. The Club will now raise the logs back again and get the Mead logs sawed and ready for the other pen.

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Don't Forget: You too can help make a difference. Your volunteer time is needed!

MEAD LOGS BROUGHT TO VILLAGE

Under the direction of the Old Machinery Club, with club members providing the muscle, semi trailers were hauled to Chillicothe where the Mead paper company had stored 24 large poplar logs for the Village. Their forestry division had culled out particularly straight and large poplars as sections of their woodlands were cut and they were given to the Village as part of Mead's support of Ohio wildlife and conservation efforts and historical restoration. The Village had been waiting for freezing weather to bring them in, since mud would be a big factor at the Village grounds.

Bruce Lindamood, president of the Farm Group provided the truck tractor and trailer and they were brought in without mishap. They were unloaded in the vicinity of the sawmill where they will be sawed to dimension in the summer. The trailer is still across the pedestrian walk as it was too muddy to haul it out further.

Contact person for the Village was Trustee Gary Breeze and for the Mead company was Jane Mechem.

FRIDAY CREW ACCOMPLISHING MUCH

The Friday work crew has just about finished restoring the old buggy they have been working on with paint and hardware and wooden part replaced.

MERRICKS VACATIONING

Jim and Sharon Merrick, caretakers for the Village, with Sharon also the Treasurer, are vacationing for a couple weeks in the west. They flew to California and are presently visiting Jim's parents who reside in the Phoenix, Arizona area.

Seadog, their dog and the Village pet, has made the most of their absence, mooching from just about everyone who comes along. It brings truth to the old adage, "absence makes the heart grow fonder", but in this case absence is making the dog grow fatter!

Seadog has been making her contribution to the ongoing work at the Village, however, accompanying all the sap gatherers out on their treks through the woods as if to show them the way and provide a guiding service. And consuming all the left over pancakes (and a few sausages) from the furnace tenders.

RICHARDS VACATIONING

Mic and Don Richards took a couple weeks off and flew and then drove around California doing some sight seeing and restoration investigating. They found the efforts to restore the historic coastal missions (there are 21 of them a day's travel apart all the way up the California coast) to be very

well developed. They think the Russian colony north of San Francisco (1812 to 1835) to be the most interesting with many of the original buildings still standing. "With the resources of a great state like California, Ft. Ross is not nearly as complex, developed, interesting or accurate as Pioneer Village", they note.

MAY FESTIVAL ALREADY IN NEWS

Recent meetings have been full of discussion about the first festival of the year, the May festival on May 20 and 21. A quilt show had been planned, but it has increasingly apparent that such a show would involve prohibitive insurance costs as quilts are becoming folk art and more and more valuable.

More will be in the Log about the May festival, but the quilt show idea still in strong. The Trustees feel that a broader base is needed for the two days.

BROCHURES ALREADY SENT OUT

The Village has already had several requests for brochures from groups planning their 1989 itinerary. Several hundred have been sent to Nationwide Insurance for their employees and to the local Chamber of Commerce and the Cincinnati AAA. No new nor different brochures are being planned for this year. although some reprinting