

THE VILLAGE LOG

Maple Syrup 1989

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE

Vol. XIV Issue 1
January 1989

IT'S NOT ALL DONE YET

Included with this issue is a list of things that need to be done at the Village- some large, some small but all deemed important to be done sometime in the future. These jobs are in addition to ongoing jobs such as that of the treasurer, or the secretary, or the publicity, or the insurance contact and so on.

Occasionally we hear someone say "What can I do?" and the hearer is often at loss to think of an appropriate job or even an answer that would be sensible for the individual asking the question. We have set down some of the tasks beckoning our volunteer workers- if you would like to be one too, select a job you particularly would be interested in and let us know. There is usually someone out there on Fridays and Saturdays as well. Even on Sundays.

The Village will try to furnish whatever tools or equipment that might be needed and let you proceed at your own speed. Look the list over- does one look like you would like to call it your own? Let us know.

IT'S THE QUIET SEASON

Jim Merrick, Caretaker reports that the Village has been exceptionally quiet so far this winter, with very few visitors and nothing else going on. Considering the open type winter we have had so far, this is newsworthy. However under the surface much has been going on, so a busy season looms in the future to insure a full summer.

The Friday crew has been busy at work on the Mills house and on a buggy donated to the Village some years ago. The Old Machinery Club has been busy with plans, meetings, and are ready for a full summer. Linda has much of the paper work for the summer lined up and Sharon has the books ready for the budget meeting soon. Joe Worley has been wiring in the store and the blacksmith shop has much done.

MAPLE SYRUP EQUIPMENT GIVEN

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Trustee Gary Breeze recently was contacted by William Furnas, heir son of the late Roscoe Furnas who had a farm on Furnas Road north of the Caesar's Creek area. Mr. Furnas donated approximately 125 good sap buckets together with at least that number of bucket lids and spiles plus other assorted maple syrup equipment to the Village from an extensive operation that was at one time run on the Furnas farm.

Breeze and Don Richards examined the boiled equipment and furnace and vats but they were too rusty to salvage and too permanently in place to move. The Furnace operation had not, according to William, been run since the 1950's, when most of the other local operations had also ceased to operate.

The Village presently operates with equipment donated either by the late Lee Anes or from his estate, and with material from the operation Don Richards' father ran.

The lids will be particularly welcome as the Village has none and they are most welcome to fend off spring rains that darken and dilute the sap.

IT IS MAPLE SYRUP TIME AGAIN

Pioneer Village will once again tap its maples, open the sugar bush, set up the boiling pans, hang the buckets and boil down the sap in what has become a rite of spring to many of the members and what was at one time in this part of Ohio, an important cash crop from the farm and a late winter chore.

Very few sugar bushes are operating in this part of the state nowadays, with the production of maple syrup pretty much concentrated in the northern and eastern parts of the state. Pioneer Village regards the season both an opportunity to raise always needed money and a way of bringing history alive which is at the core of the philosophical orientation of most members.

Since the season depends much on the weather, about the middle of February should see activities getting started and extend into the first of March for a week or two. Some seasons as short, some long, some split; last year's was exceptionally good- so it is difficult to give specific dates, but anyone wishing to sample the "bush" and the Village in spring can find something brewing or rather boiling during these times. Everyone is welcome- bring a picnic lunch and we probably will be able to find a coffee pot to add along.

The syrup season at the Village is, along with everything else, old fashioned. We fire with wood, chop with an axe, tap with a bucket and carry the sap through the woods by hand. All this hand work can use help. It beats watching TV!

NEXT MONTH GETS THINGS STARTED

February promises to be the beginning of the new year- one full of change activity and accomplishment as every year has been since the Village got its start in 1973.

Two meetings will be held, the first and third Tuesday evenings. The Village will figure prominently in the park's winter hike as it will be the starting point for the hikers who will be bussed there from the overlook beside the dam. This will be February 11. Maple syrup season with tree tapping will be through the last half of the month. The Fridays are generally busy with repair or construction activity and the Old machinery club will hold its meeting the first Sunday of the month.

SHEEP OFF VISITING

The three sheep are spending the winter at Trustee Drew Gilliland's farm, growing fast and contented on Old Machinery grain and hay. Drew brought them after they were delivered by George Wall from their visits with a local buck owned by John Bay. New lambs will be expected in April.

Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village
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Permit No. 43

Have a meeting and need a speaker? Pioneer Village has programs. Phone 897 2672

MILLS HOUSE GETTING FACELIFT

The Mills house, second oldest building in the Village, has been getting some new logs on the left front side during the past several weeks. As most anyone familiar with the Village could tell, the Mills house logs in front had badly deteriorated and were in need of replacement as soon as possible or even sooner if that was possible.

Apparently this particular structure had been built with logs in the immediate vicinity of the house site in the late 1700's when it was built, not too uncommon an event in those days since log houses were built only long enough to last maybe a generation, and unlike most log homes that were built in stands of similar types of trees, the Mills house has several different types of logs in it; both hard and soft wood. After nearly two hundred years the hard wood is still in fairly good shape, but the soft woods are about gone.

Burnett Butterworth and Don Richards removed several logs before Thanksgiving and then the Friday crew has been putting better ones back in.

SHARON NEEDS FILING CABINET

Our treasurer, Sharon Merrick needs a two drawer filing cabinet for the Village records she keeps. Anyone

interested in donating a used one can call the Merricks at 897 1120 or Don Richards at 897 6546. Most of us have become so used to shoe and fruit crate filing systems, a filing cabinet would be a novelty indeed!

OLD BUGGY GETTING REPAIRS

An old buggy donated to the Village several years ago is now undergoing repair in the Head Shed from the Friday crew. The spokes are being repaired, the frame mended and reinforced, new wood replacing old, paint applied, bonnet frames welded and a new floor installed. It was in nearly unrepairable shape, but a bit of persistence and much home-made engineering is bringing it around so it once again can be used.

MEAD LOGS RESERVED IN CHILLICOTHE

Over the Christmas holidays the Richards drove to the Mead Paper Company in Chillicothe for Gary Breeze who was out of town, but who had been locating the logs, and was shown 25 large poplar logs the company had collected for the Village. Plans are underway to bring them in.

ELECTIONS MEETING APPROACHING

Each year three Trustees are elected to the Village's nine. From the body of Trustees the Village's officers are elected. This meeting is

set for March 7 at 7 PM in the Village restaurant in Waynesville, the regular meeting place and time through the winter.

At that time the nominating committee will present a slate of candidates and additional nominations may be made from the floor.

SPRAYING DONE AGAIN

Over December all the log structures in the Village were sprayed with Thompson's Water Seal, a preservative and water repelling liquid that the Village uses. This annual job costs about \$1500, about half for the material and half for the labor. Two fifty-five gallon drums of water seal were used.

All outside surfaces of the buildings got one coating and the south and western sides (the weather sides) got two. Jerry Neeley of Waynesville did the spraying.

PHIL RADAR DONATES LOGS

The Village received two truckloads of hewn logs from a building site that Phil Radar of Lebanon is using to erect a large logs house on. The site is in Clinton County.

The logs were good quality usable logs of varying length left over from his construction in which he used two log houses and joined together by a third and then embellished the building with garages and additions.