

THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE

July 1989
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FINANCIAL CHANGES INITIATED

Recently in a special Trustee's meeting several significant financial steps were taken to cope with a rapidly deteriorating deficit the Village is encountering.

In short, expenditures have been and continue to be out-distancing income and the steps that were taken attempt to solve this dilemma. So far this year revenue from festivals have been disappointingly low and although income from other sources continue to be at about the average in years past, they do not make up the deficit. Last year the Village faced about the same problem, but by borrowing from the Harkrader barn fund to meet current expenses, the year ended in the black with the barn fund repaid.

This left very little to tide over the lean months when little income comes in. So, again the Village borrowed from the same fund to pay the salary of the Coordinator, insurance, maintenance costs utilities, sanitation, store inventory and on-going minor construction. Presently the Harkrader barn fund is nearly depleted and the Trustees face the remainder of the year with poor prospects of paying it back since this summer not only has festival attendance been light but one festival has been eliminated and the growth of craft sales at places like flea markets and other festivals such as the sauerkraut festival made serious inroads into potential customers.

Next year the Trustees will look at increased insurance costs, salary and other costs with no barn fund to borrow from and very likely diminished income sources. As for the barn fund, money placed in that account was not intended as a relief account and in the meantime the barn lies unfinished and deteriorating. To honor the commitment to those contributing to that fund, that fund must be used for what we promised- to erect the Harkrader barn. To use it for other purposes is clearly dishonest.

Visitors have been light this summer, festivals down, expenses up and only encumbered funds available. The Trustees could see no other path than to cut expenses wherever possible and continue on an austerity arrangement until the barn fund is repaid, income exceeds expenses and a healthy enough balance is in the budget to once again carry on the job of restoration. Not only will those areas of the Village that we have become accustomed to hiring done away with but volunteers will have to pick up the slack, or the programs at the Village will be reduced indeed.

These painful truths were looked at and some painful decisions reached. The most painful one was the elimination of the salaried job of Coordinator at the end of this year. By notifying her in July, the Trustees hoped she would have ample time to seek other employment during the remaining months of 1989 during which she will be paid. Volunteers will have to pick up her many jobs or they will simply not get done. It is hoped she will continue as a volunteer as she was before the job was offered to her.

Since the costs of the store far exceed those of sales it was decided to eliminate all inventory except for that which sells best-candy. The position of storekeeper will be eliminated (Beverly worked on a commission basis) and the store opened up only on week ends or at special times and then run by volunteers only. The inventory will be sold at cost to try to recoup costs. This new policy will be in effect for 1990.

The Trustees felt that an attempt to find cheaper insurance writers was unwise and elected not to attempt to cut costs in this area. They also felt the raising of membership costs was unwise.

Since attendance was poor at the civil war enactment and cost for that affair have risen sharply, it was decided to drop that activity and maybe just have the music festival alone.

Since the student seminars are popular and the new summer day camp was so popular, it was decided to increase those areas of activity for 1990.

Sanitation is a big expense. It was decided to use portajohns on a event-by-event basis and try to get along on the ones we have already.

Also it was decided to drop the newsletter to a quarter issue since volunteer help might be hard to get on a monthly basis. (Another of the Coordinator's jobs). Unless inexpensive ways can be found to get it out monthly commercially.

Finally with festivals becoming possibly a feature of another decade, seek other ways to present the Village to the public where competition is not so keen and a historical restoration can be featured. Members can feel free to suggest ways that this can be accomplished.

Probably the Trustees have waited too long, hoping their financial dilemma would solve itself, but watching it get worse, dreading the change necessary to take a different tack. It is hoped that with a year or two of belt tightening, once again the barn fund will be healthy, money will be available for increased operational expenses and current needs will be met on a balanced basis.

MEMORIAL TREE REPLANTED

Some time ago a tree was planted near the blacksmith shop in memory of Mrs. Corwin Nixon by a local farmers club, and a plaque placed on a bench to go with it by Corwin Nixon. During the dry summer the tree died and although plans were pursued, the tree remained where it had died.

This past week Trustee Gary Breeze had the dead tree removed, an oak, and a large and attractive maple tree planted in its place. The maple now accompanies the bench in memory of Mrs. Nixon.

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Sorghum 1989

Come the Old Farm Machinery Show. They get bigger and better.

OLD FARM MACHINERY SHOW SET

The Old Farm Machinery show is set and ready to go, according to its members who have been lining up exhibitors, readying equipment for the antique tractor pulling and horse pulling (Friday night) selling advertisements, printing programs, ordering and designing the plaques and trophies, and a hundred and one other things it takes to put on a successful event of this size.

Food will be served as usual, and also at an extra booth near the track for the convenience of the spectators. Some craftsmen will be on the grounds and there will be the usual musicians on the stage and around the buildings to provide the usual good entertainment.

Detailed to a greater extent in the accompanying flyer, the show promises to be good entertainment for all and an exciting three days (Friday night and then all day Saturday and Sunday) of entertainment. This has become the Village's largest summer show and now rivals the harvest festival in popularity.

There will be plenty of old and antique tractors to see, demonstrations of thrashing and baling and husking equipment to watch. Many collectors of small engines will have their restorations to see.

For a break from the boredom of the pool, the backyard barbecue,

the in-laws who visit every summer and the endless reruns on the tube, Pioneer Village offers good family type entertainment plus the uniqueness of the buildings and the lore of the Village itself.

CLUB ENTERS LOCAL PARADE

The Old Farm Machinery Club built and then entered a float in the Waynesville Spring Fair and came away with a blue ribbon, according to trustee Michelle Ghearing, who did much of the work to get the whole project coordinated and put in motion.

Michelle and Jay Collins built a log cabin out of crepe paper and chicken wire and spray painted it and hauled it in the parade with a tractor.

SORGHUM COMING ALONG WELL

Sorghum 2015
The Village's sorghum stand, put in by the Collins in between shows in the spring, is very spotty, but coming along hopefully well enough to produce a crop by the first part of September in time for the harvest festival, September 16 and 17.

It has been fertilized and cultivated by George Wall and Burnett Butterworth. Its spotty growth pattern is probably due to uneven ground fertility and moisture, they think. Anyway, it won't be too soon before the field beckons the harvest hands for preparation for the

stripping, cutting, boiling and jarring, all part of the fall harvest festival and a pioneer activity to come and watch.

SCALES BUILDING TAKING SHAPE

Scales Building
The members of the Old Farm Machinery Club are constructing a large building as part of the scales building in which to house the thrasher as well as other pieces of farm machinery they have acquired over the past few years.

When finished, it will be moved out of the Lukens barn and stored in that building.

DUMPSTER PAD POURED

Don Richards and Roy McDonald put in a cement pad for the village dumpster recently, putting it beside the Lukens barn in the same location it has been for many years.

The park department, which has been hauling the Village's garbage away for several years felt that it would be much easier for the truck drivers if the dumpster sat off the ground and out of the mud.

MARSH GIVEN TASK

Glynn Marsh, son of the late Homer L. Marsh, was given the obligation at a recent meeting to administer and select memorials for his father from the memorial fund established in his honor.