

THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE

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MEETING HOUSE SIGN RETURNS

One evening recently, Donald Haines and Don Richards erected the Meeting House sign in front, in its original location. The sign had been missing since before the building was moved.

A replica of the original sign, which was stolen during refinishing and painting, it is the gift of Donald, and replaces the one he had erected in front of the Meeting House years before the Caesar's Creek project was initiated.

The sign, constructed of heavy sheet metal and set on steel posts, bears the name of the building and the date it was set off from the Miami Monthly (now yearly) meeting in 1805.

PAILINGS PUT UP BY MARSH

Homer Marsh has completed the construction of pailings or pickets around the Hatfield house, greatly enhancing the attractiveness and granting the building quite a degree of privacy, something that it will need as the caretaker's home.

The several hundred pailings were cut by hand in a turnip top pattern from red wood slats over the winter in Homer's workshop and then nailed to treated posts set by Homer and Dave Hastell.

BIRDHOUSES NOW ERECTED

Several of the small birdhouses fashioned by Homer Marsh over the past winter were erected recently on top of light poles around the Village green.

Homer has, in past years, enticed bluebirds to the Village with the handmade houses he has placed at the edges of clearings. The birds rented them for a song.

JULY MEETING PLACE CHANGED

The program for July for the second meeting, the program meeting of the month, will be held in the new Corps of Engineers building, the Caesar Creek Visitors' Center, off Clarksville Road, at the usual time. A tour of the building and explanation of it will follow a short business meeting. The business meeting will be held in the Visitors' Center also.

PROGRAM AND PLACE MELD

The past program for the second meeting for the month of June was a special one indeed.

The program consisted of a thirty-five minute memorized recitation by Lynn Callender entitled "The Old Settler's Tale", a poem by Carlton.

Lynn, dressed appropriately for his dramatic role, stood back to the fireplace in the Hatfield house, and as his tale unfolded, so did a violent summer thunder storm outside.

By the time the poem had reached a climax, and the heroine lay dying on the cabin floor after having been outside all night in a violent thunderstorm in search of livestock, sheets of rain were beating against the windows, the sky was black and lightning was flashing rapidly.

Lynn said later that the backdrop provided by the Village and the scenario by Mother Nature made the recitation memorable for him among the many times he has performed it.

Lynn's presentation was a real treat to members in attendance.

FOUNDING MEMBER DIES

Village members are saddened over the recent death of Eleanor Plecker, a charter member of the Village and one of the original group which set up the organization, a former trustee, strong supporter and friend.

Eleanor, a resident of Bellbrook, followed her husband DeWitt, whose death occurred in January. The Pleckers were enthusiastic members, and Eleanor did the addressing of the newsletter (no small job) for many years.

Eleanor and her sister Gloria, who survives her, are the last direct link to the land on which the Village stands. As children they spent summers living with their grandparents, the Thompsons, who owned the land on which the Village stands and who lived in the Lukens house. It was under their ownership that the apex of the place was reached and was considered to be one of the outstanding farms in Warren County. Eleanor led Chuck Parrish, Corps, Historian, to an Indian burial ground, where her grandfather would never allow anyone to plow.

Memorial contributions to Pioneer Village will provide orchard trees for the farm complex.

COLLETT LOG HOUSE ACCEPTED

The trustees voted recently to accept the gift of a small log building from the Collett family. The house, located at the corner of Rt. 7e and Collett Rd. has been in the family since the early 1800's.

MUSIC FESTIVAL BEST YET

Beset by a light drizzle Saturday morning, which reduced the attendance for the balance of the day, handicapped by lack of sufficient hands in practically all of the service areas, and given hard competition by any number of activities which had been highly advertised in the southwestern Ohio area, the Old Time Music Festival at the Village on June 19 and 20 went over with a rousing vote of acclaim and overwhelming success.

Chaired by Debbie Kopp, who was everywhere all the time and given assistance by Ed Simpkins, who untiringly MC'd played, joked, managed equipment and scheduled performers, the music part of the two-day event went down in history as the best yet in attendance, food and facilitation.

Culminating months of work, publicity, correspondence, planning, purchasing, phoning, the festival was praised by the performers as the outstanding one of the year, and by the visitors as the best yet and one surely hard to equal. The performers liked the camping area and facilities provided for them, and said they thought the food was delicious and production facilities good.

This year, an increased number of performers kept music coming in constantly changing variety from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday, when the last barbecued chicken was rescued from the pit, the last sandwiches made and cornbread cut up, the last admittance taken, and the last load of garbage sacked.

Sunday morning from 10 a.m. till 11, the Meeting House was the scene of heartwarming and throat aching gospel singing which ended in tears for many and great memories for all.

After the last tune Saturday evening on stage, the music kept flowing in several buildings and around many campfires, until tired and contented musicians turned to coffee and steaks to herald in the dawn.

From that point and overworked and understaffed corps of people in the kitchen rushed tirelessly the remainder of the day to mix, cook, create, broil, serve, pour, wash, ladle and boil for an appreciative and endless line of appetites. In the process old, young, member, guest, relative, visitor and manager were pressed into service.

Instrument builders and music craftsmen were in many buildings, records and other items were for sale in the Hatfield house, which also served as headquarters building.

As in past years, impromptu groups were forming and re-forming around the Village grounds as old friends and new played the tunes of reunion.

Friday evening, the stew was made in the Richards' lard kettle and cornbread was made in the kitchen. From somewhere Rhubarb pie kept coming until Ralph Kanko set up an emergency Rhubarb Pie Anonymous in order to control its consumption.

Finally Sunday afternoon late, the tired participants headed for their homes in other states and across this one to anticipate another Pioneer Village music festival.

LARGE COOLER PURCHASED

The Village recently voted to purchase a used walk-in cooler from the old Sherwood Market in Lebanon from the present owner, King Wentjes, through the recommendation of Mildred Crane.

The Village has needed a cooler for some time but had not found one that could be afforded. The cooler will supplement the food service area and be an important asset.

SUMMER WEEKENDS BECKON TO ALL TASKS UNFINISHED

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Permit No. 43

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