

THE ^{Inn}VILLAGE LOG

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PHONE... VILLAGE

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MUSIC FESTIVAL NEXT PUBLIC ACTIVITY

The next public activity for the Village will be the annual music festival to be held June 21 and 22 from 10 AM till 10 PM or so on Saturday and 10 AM to 5 on Sunday. Admission price is set at \$2 for adults and 50¢ for children under 12.

Scheduled again around the theme of early American music, it will feature dulcimer, banjo, fiddle, guitar and groups and singles both days, with vocal groups mixed in. The barn will be more contemporary music location where Jim Merrick will be in charge, the stage will be Bob Sampson's location with the traditional American music, and the Meeting House will house dulcimer players and gospel music as well.

Some workshops are planned, but they are not committed at this time.

Food will be available at the kitchen and there will be some craftpersons on the premises as well. With the augmented seating now available, the grounds prepared for informal and impromptu music groups, the day should be a fun day for the entire family.

MORE WORK ON THE INN IS COMPLETED

The chimney and fireplace on the skinskin inn was completed during the past two weeks, so that all the heating system for that building is now in place. If the building had floors and ceilings, it might even heat the downstairs room! Central on the fireplace is a small millstone from the Lukens mill which was located below Harveysburg on the creek in a race that crossed near a ford on Middletown Road.

Found when the Cleveland Museum of Natural History excavated the mill site, the bedstone and several extra stones were found which were kept in the barn. Much extra artifacts were found among them, the little millstone. Wriston Cole built the entire system, constructing the fireplace around the largest heater that could be purchased, with provisions for forced air heat when a wiring system for the building is built.

INSURANCE WOES COME TO CLOSE

Usually the main topics of meetings revolve around festivals or restoration activities or both, but this year so far the main topic has been insurance.

A topic usually taken for granted and disposed of as a matter of course, it has been center stage ever since the Grange company notified the Village that it was not renewing its coverage for 1986.

The ensuing months of interviewing, writing, discussing, anguishing, and finally closing the Village were occupied with long discouraging meetings as the members present worked to solve a dilemma not of their own making and seemingly impossible to overcome.

Finally Joe Worley who spent uncounted hours on the phone and at local insurance offices, got a commitment from a high risk company, who agreed to cover the Spring Festival at a rate of \$1080!. This made the Spring Affair possible, and enabled the Village to honor its advertisements of activities, but at a cost too costly to realize much profit to put into restoration work.

Feeling that the loss of momentum and adverse publicity would be worse than losing money on a festival, Trustees chose to go ahead and try to persist in the face of problems they never anticipated when they chose to try to save Ohio's heritage in their spare time instead of use it for self indulgence or entertainment as most folks tend to do.

Problems did not go away and the Village remained closed after the two days of the festival were over and lines of cars were turned away over the Memorial Day weekend.

Somehow the Cincinnati newspapers learned of the difficulties, and the daily issue came out with a banner headline across the front page advising readers of our plight. Two hours later TV and radio stations were asking for interviews and news, channel 9 was on the grounds, and the first of several insurance representatives were talking with Joe as they made

estimations of cost.

Later the same day an offer was accepted for complete coverage (the Trustees had despaired of either fire theft) for \$5000 for the year with no strings attached.

Saturday, May 31 the barricades came down and the toll house opened once again.

To cap good fortune and provide the silver lining in what had become a dark cloud indeed, a Cincinnati attorney sent a check for the difference between last year's cost and the \$5000, some \$1500, as a gesture of support and concern!

So back to the restoration work and the presentation of special events and faith in human kind.

HIGHER COSTS BRING HIGHER REQUESTS

At the most recent Trustee's meeting and after a long discussion and some considerable soul searching, it was decided to raise membership dues from \$5 to \$10 annually.

Citing higher insurance costs, materials costs, sanitation costs, mailing and advertisement costs, the Trustees raised the cost of an individual annual membership dues but did not raise the family membership further, nor changed the sustaining dues. Annual dues are now \$10 for both family and individuals, and initial sustaining dues are still \$25.

Annual renewal costs stand at \$10 for all categories, since sustaining members rarely renew at the \$25 rate. This simplifies renewal notices and bookkeeping for Ethel Jefferis, who takes care of that job, and increases the amount of support, badly needed, from general membership fees.

Unchanged since the Village started in 1973, the costs of times have outstripped the sustaining fees in place. The costs of mailing the newsletter have increased to the extent that the costs of the eleven issues annually (mailing, printing, paper, addresses, etc) exceed the \$5 membership dues for those that receive it.

NOT SO SUCCESSFUL

Sorghum 1986

A light turnout marked the first festival for the 1986 year which managed to pay for the start up expenses, the insurance, food, mailings, refuse and sanitation, and other routine expenses, and still turned a small profit!

The turnout stemmed from several factors, none of which would prove fatal, but together worked to keep the crowd light. Threatening weather augmented by grim forecasts, a single lane in two places on route 73 in two places for bridge repair, policemen who decided after thirteen years to remove the direction signs without warning, ample competition from other events, and the mere fact that first festivals of the season often generate small crowds, made the festival more an exercise in entertainment than a fund raising activity.

By far the most difficult obstacle to overcome was the high cost of the insurance which was purchased just for the two days at a cost of \$1080. The Village somehow managed to find itself in the position of paying insurance so it could afford to hold a festival so it could have enough money to pay insurance with!

There were blessings, however, as many of the craftsmen donated their entire meager earnings or gave substantially greater percentages of their share back to the Village as well as one who added a ten dollar bill to her total earnings of \$3.50 which she gave also. Without the dedication and

loyalty shown by the craftsmen and volunteer workers the Village would just be another job, and the fun would be gone.

SPRING HOUSE GETS FOUNDATION

Springhouse
The Lacy Springhouse got a good start during the past several weeks as the foundation footer was poured and cement blocks were set in place up to a height of three feet. The floor was left to fill with sand and the inside of the block walls are to be veneered with stone up to the top of the blocks, with a stone wall of three and a half feet on top of that to make a total height of six and a half feet from floor to the top of the wall. Rafters will be placed on the wall and a shingle roof on that. The door will be at ground level with an overhang over that.

Since a springhouse needs a spring, and the Village has none, water will be piped in from the Village water system to run through the flagstones inside to provide the cooling and the aspect of a spring. A drain will be set in the rear wall to provide drainage. Wristen Cole will do the stone work this summer.

STORE PORCH REPAIRED ONCE AGAIN

Store
George Wall, Stan Ireton, Joe Worley and Burnett Butterworth recently tore off the old front porch of the store and replaced it with a strengthened and straightened replacement complete without rotten boards and soft holes that made walking interesting at times.

QUILTING CLUB NOW KNITS NICE

The Pioneer Village Quilting Club which will meet the first Sunday of each month in the Collett house, will continue to operate after an initial meeting and organization in May.

Attending were Becky Siva, Annabelle Ireton, Annafrances Riddle, Sharon Cunningham, Edna Marsh, and Pam Fornshell. Persons interested just bring your quilting and come, bring a sack lunch and show up at 10 and do whatever quilters do until you feel like quitting. It's quite an activity!

SORGHUM PLANTED IN NEW FIELD

Sorghum
Members of the Antique Farm Machinery have planted the 1986 crop of sorghum cane in a new location, being across the treeline to the rear of the farm area. The cane is up but is rather thick in some places and non-existent in others. According to Gary Breeze, it will have to be hoed by hand and possibly replanted in some areas to assure a good crop.

HOW DOES APRIL DO IN MAY ANYWAY

Little April, the spring lamb, is not so little anymore. She has been growing rapidly, having been born large, and is nearly the size of her playmates, Debbie and Teddie.

She lost her tail along the way someplace and looks very healthy and part of the farm complex, wandering around almost at will much to the consternation of mother Samantha.

The music festival can include entertainment at the Village and recreation at the park!

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