

THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK

PIONEER VILLAGE

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November 1985

Since this is the last newsletter for 1985, as usual, a review of the past months would be in order and for comparison. This year stacks up pretty well.

In the area of construction, the sorghum billing shed was given a retaining wall and a better floor; the Collett house, a down and upstairs floor and a new chimney. A new chimney was also put in the Furnas house. Extensive chinking was put in the Collett house, and work went along on the Hawkins house chimney. An addition was put on the blacksmith building and a pad poured for a hearth. A cement floor was poured for the picnic shelter and piers set for a small building at the farm complex.

The Helgway house got logs, gable ends, purlins and roofing on, windows in and the site cleared. A three-bay storage shed was erected to the rear of the sorghum complex. The Sabina building was brought in and a footer poured for that. The Inn logs were all laid up, floor joists put in for all floors, roof on, gable ends in, porch on and the chimney base set. Exploratory work on the Harkrader barn was accomplished. Extensive fencing was built around the orchard, the barn yard and along the fields.

A barnyard was built. Grounds were cleaned up and stone piles consolidated. Trail work was done. A tractor pull area was built and a loading ramp built, an additional campground put into use. Signs were painted and trees planted. The herb garden thrived with TLC, with plantings and activities.

The wellhouse was started. Maple trees were planted. An herb book was published. A mail show was held. The Sugar maple festival booth was managed. Five

two-day festivals were run. Two sessions of school days were held, three days each. A homecoming party was put on, a Volksmarsche and a spring hike were hosted. A wedding and a Christmas party took place in the meeting house. A booth was manned at the Clinton County Corn Festival. Crops were grown, flax, corn, sorghum and wheat. Three groups became associated with the Village: The Caesar's Creek Dulcimer Society, the Warren County Antique Machinery Club, and the newly organized black powder enthusiasts.

The Village received some nice contributions, moneywise; plus a tent, a rototiller, kettles, a blinder, a sulky, a cider press, furniture, a set of logs for repair and replacement, and the offer of a fine log barn.

VILLAGE LAUNCHES FUND DRIVE

Aware of the monumental task, considerable money and tons of energy necessary to move the 20-foot by 60-foot Harkrader barn to the Village, the trustees made the decision to attempt to raise money by a direct appeal through the mail for finances for this overwhelming project.

A letter and two photographs were mailed to each member and personal appeals will be made to a list of others. The photographs, taken this past fall by Joe Worley, show the site and condition of the building.

Several groups of Villagers have visited the site to gauge the work necessary, starting with dismantling the roof; then clearing debris around the building, and separating surrounding structures. The barn can be reached by only at least four-wheel drive equipment. It is hoped that funds from the mailing and drive will enable the Village to bring this fine barn in by next summer.

INN PROGRESS NOW APPARENT

At long last even the casual observer can see that there is great progress on the Bullsken Inn.

This past summer the CETA workers put piers under the first floor sills and blocks for the foundation of the chimney. Recently, the trustees voted to hire the roof to be put on, and then decided that while that was being done, the Village would hire the front porch built. As of this writing the Inn is under a fine shingle roof and gable ends are being closed in with vertical siding. Work on the front porch should be completed in December.

Work is yet to be done to floor the inside, finish ceilings, install stairs, and put up a chimney. There has been some discussion of a rear addition. The trustees have not investigated needs and possibilities for this and have not made any conclusion.

PROGRAM DECEMBER 8

Again as of this writing, plans are set for the annual Christmas program held in the Meeting House. It is a program of music, reading and group singing, followed by a bring-in dessert by all. The party begins at two o'clock. Members of the Waynesville Historical Society and the Harveysburg Historical Society will serve beverages. The Caesar's Creek Dulcimer Society will lead the music.

FIRST 1986 MEETING JAN. 7

1985 is drawing to a close. The January 7 Village meeting will be starting the winter meetings at St. Mary's Church in Waynesville. The time is 7:30, as usual.

IN CASE YOU HAVE BEEN WONDERING...

Recently a somewhat depressing and tumultuous chapter in the life of Pioneer Village was closed. The participants came away from the experience with a more mature understanding of the complexities of intergroup relations and perhaps a stronger commitment to the ideal of the Village and what it has grown to become.

In reviewing this chapter, it is hoped that the brief news items of several years past and the stories of the legal battle can be brought together.

The culmination of events finally resulted in the payment of \$1500 to James Simpkins and the honoring of some \$1300 in legal fees incurred through legal counsel.

It all started when the trustees, experiencing considerable difficulty in getting continuity and willing volunteers for the job of managing the food sales at festival times, decided to hire some one to manage the job and also to provide regular food sales through the summer for visitors.

During the spring several years ago advertisements were circulated that the Village would hire such a person and subsequent applicants were interviewed by a committee who volunteered for the purpose. Mr. and Mrs. James Simpkins were employed for the job. Since regular food service was an untried area, the Village agreed to provide fac-

ilities, equipment, fuel, water, electricity, and volunteer assistance; the Simpkinses were to buy the food inventory from the Village and make a 15% payment to the Village monthly of all money collected through food sales.

The verbal agreement was put into effect while a contract was being written shortly before the spring festival. The season will be always remembered as the summer of the great washouts, and the spring festival was no exception.

Although the first festival was moderately successful, and the Simpkinses did make some money, the following music festival was not, and the weather remained dismal from then on. It had been agreed that a "pioneer" menu was to be served Wednesday through Sunday. Few visitors came. After about two weeks the Simpkinses asked to switch to more contemporary items such as candy and hot dogs. Trustees agreed.

A young son of the Simpkinses was put in charge with his parents' checking occasionally. The trustees felt food sale was not aggressive and the kitchen was not being kept up to desired standards. Soon permission was given to drop weekday food sales and sell only on weekends and holidays. Food sales still slowed.

Dissatisfaction was culminated during a meeting in July when the trustees voted to discontinue the service of the Simpkinses. Ironically, during the same meeting,

when the written and revised contract for the Simpkinses was approved and presented for them, they refused to sign. The Simpkinses took certain food items on hand, kept the money made to-date, including the Village's 15%, did not pay for the inventory, and the two groups parted.

The Village once again assumed control of the food service on a volunteer basis, and the year ended. The Simpkinses sued for what they felt they would have made had they continued through the season, and the Village counter-claimed for the unpaid monies.

Through counsel, meetings and testimony lasting over nearly two years, the Village upon advice of counsel settled out of court to avoid further inconvenience and cost, and to get on with the future and forget the past.

The episode lost the Village several valued members, caused anxiety and heartache to others, took much time and energy. It proved to be in the final analysis much more expensive than simply not serving food at all when volunteer help dried up. To an organization dearly needing all its funds for restoration so evident, the expenditure in such a way was dear indeed, and a lesson learned by all those who work so hard to raise money to develop the Village. It is probable that maturity comes both through successes as well as hard knocks; many more of the former and as few as possible of the latter.

THE UPPER VALLEY MALL BOOTH WAS A GREAT SUCCESS - THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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