

THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE

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CHRISTMAS AT THE VILLAGE

On December 2, Sunday, from twelve till four PM, the Village will observe a day of Christmas celebration and remembrance in several of the buildings.

For the past two years there has been no Christmas observance but enough desire and enthusiasm has been indicated this year to try a larger and vastly improved version than ever before. In addition to the regular activities set up that are associated with Christmas, the Bullsken Inn will be officially opened and dedicated at two o'clock.

The various companies of the Confederate Marines, a civil war reenactment group whose headquarters building is the Lukens house, will decorate the Lukens house, the Mills house, the Hawkins house and the Furnas house. The McDonald family who have taken over responsibility for the Githens house will decorate that one, the Frontiersmen will do the same for the Heighway cabin, and the Kilstrom family will do the Collett house. The Village will decorate the Inn, the Meeting house, and the Elam house. Clayton Gredig may set up his lodge to portray how Indians regarded and observed this Christian holiday.

The observances in the buildings will be of an open house type with light refreshments served, family life of the era of the time period of the Village (early 1800's) at Christmas time, and frontier life in general. Proper costuming will be observed.

The center of the activities will be the Bullsken Inn with open house there also, but also open for inspection now that the building is ready to use. At 2 PM the dedication of the Inn will take place, honoring those who have worked over the past several years to make it a reality.

Christmas caroling will take place in the Meeting house at 1, with caroling for perhaps a half

hour or until people get tired of singing. Fires will be going in the fireplaces and stoves and there may also be music. All visitors will be welcomed in all the buildings, in fact, urged to come in. Parking will be in the front parking lot and there will be no set time period for any other of the activities other than the Inn dedication and the caroling. Part of the Meeting house program will be by Dottie Hawke who has a specially appropriate Christmas reading to give.

Jim Merrick has offered to take visitors on short rides around the green with the Village tractor and a wagon. There will be no charge for any activity or entry.

The previous holiday observance also took place on the first Sunday of December, and occupied about the same time as this. They, however, were only a church service in the Meeting house lasting perhaps a half hour followed by refreshments. This year the activities are greatly expanded.

Members are especially invited but also may bring family, friends and guests. Invitations are also being sent to various organizations and historical societies.

FURNITURE STILL NEEDED

Furniture for the Bullsken Inn is still being requested, and some has been received.

Don Richards and Burnett Butterworth drove to Cincinnati recently and picked up a good showcase from the First Unitarian Church there, and then returned the next week and brought another, both welcome and useful additions. One will be used to house and display the Village's stuffed animals and the other for display of donated artifacts and memorabilia. The cases were arranged through Miriam Lukens' efforts.

The Inn still needs a large meeting table, "lodge type" chairs a chest for the upstairs alcove, and small tables for downstairs.

NEW MEMBERS REPORTED

Ethel Jefferis, Membership Chairperson, reports the following new members: Charles and Cecelia Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne R. Lewis, William and Peri Atkins of Dayton, Douglas Obert of Columbus, Stephen Obert of Grove City, David Funk of Wilmington, David Florea of Clarksville, Robert and Connie Lockhart from Bellbrook, and Rhonda and Gregory Plummer of Waynesville.

She also reports that S. D. Mullen, a charter member is now deceased.

HEIGHWAY CABIN IMPROVES

After quite a few years with not too much happening to the Heighway cabin, it is finally getting some deserved and needed attention. The Frontiersmen assuming responsibility for that building have put on a roof over the smoke hole, have done much chinking and are building more furniture. The interior has also improved with new sand for the floor and shutters for the windows that can be closed and locked in case of an Indian attack.

The same group are investigating a building at the Gredig residence they may wish to bring in.

SCHOOLHOUSE GETTING REPAIRED

The Friday group of volunteers are busy on the Village school presently and are replacing much of the rear logs and part of the sill logs which have badly deteriorated. They have recently finished work on the Bullsken Inn.

The school logs were never very good when the building was moved to the Village, and have not improved at all over the past fifteen years or so. The volunteers have much of the rear wall out and feel they will have to replace much of other parts as well.

The building was in bad shape where it sat in the valley, was moved to Waynesville for several years and then taken to the Village.

Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village
3999 Pioneer Village Road
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Also civil war maneuvers Dec. 2

RESTROOMS COMPLETE

Through the almost tireless dedication of Trustee Gary Breeze and his diligent prodding, pushing, and cajoling, the restroom building stands complete. There probably is no equal in any of the state parks of Ohio and certainly not locally.

All members are urged to see for themselves what can be accomplished when you set out to get something done and do not let all the difficulties and obstacles get in your way. For perhaps a fourth of the cost of a comparable facility, and in shorter time than thought possible.

Jim Leyes, member and local plumber installed all the fixtures without cost and furnished them to the Village at cost, as well as the plumbing materials. Waynesville Lumber made a gift of the roofing material, and Mead Paper provided logs for the Village sawmill for the siding. Gary did much work on his own as well.

Now that the Village is seventeen years old visitors can finally use a modern restroom facility without feelings of disgust, wonder, embarrassment, and haste, and probably all four of the above.

It was several years before any such facility of any kind was available, and finally Paul Crane and Don Patton got together to put holding tanks in the ground and Homer Marsh and Walter Smith built

little privies over them. Workers and visitors were glad enough to get that much to use, but they soon were inadequate and the Village started renting portajohns for major activities and then just kept them on the grounds throughout the summer, paying by the month from May through September. Pumping the tanks became a regular cost and summer-long chore. School children found their use greatly amusing and even terrifying, never having used one before.

The state park commenced picking up the Village garbage which helped lower the sanitation cost, but for the past several years such costs have risen steadily until presently the sanitation costs were about \$3500 dollars a year. Portajohn use this year became extremely inconvenient, with new restrictions about servicing them.

Now the new facilities should provide clean, sanitary, convenient, inexpensive and appropriate restrooms. The vertical wooden siding will in a few years' time, color a grey to match the rest of the Village's buildings.

The building will be closed except for Village sponsored activities, and will be used for some sign storage and as a place in which to collect admission through a central built-in bay.

The Village has been given several nice donations of money to assist with construction, and

these together with the \$10,000 loan taken out by four trustees at the Society bank just about covers the total cost of construction.

ANOTHER BENCH ADDED

The Village has received an additional wooden bench like the others throughout the Village. This one has been placed on the right side of the front door of the Bullskin Inn, on the porch. It has been donated in memory of Eric Archdeacon, 10, who was tragically killed in a traffic accident near his home this year. His parents were prominent members of the Village's Old Machinery Club and the bench was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hurst Jr. Jim was president of the Old Machinery Club this past year.

SEED CORN GRADER GIVEN

The Steve Henrys of near Lebanon recently made a gift of a rotary seed corn grader to the Village. Trustee Stan Ireton arranged for the gift through his acquaintance with them.

The grader is very unusual in as much as it runs with a hand crank that turns a cylinder into which the corn was poured. Most are mere screens. A grader was used in the homestead farm to get good seed for planting in the 1800's and into this century.