

Sorghum 1982 THE VILLAGE LOG

CAESAR'S CREEK
PIONEER VILLAGE
VOL. VII Issue 9
SEPTEMBER 1982

WALL BAKE OVEN A STAR *Bake Oven*

Without a doubt one of the main attractions of the fall festival was the Wall bake oven rushed to completion by George Wall in time to heat and dispense the fried pies to an endless line of customers.

George had worked on the oven all summer, sometimes discouraged, sometimes puzzled, but always persisting, and completed it just in time to put it to use. It worked as planned, very well indeed.

He plans a shelter roof to protect the soft brick and for wood storage.

SIMPKINS COMPLETES WIRING *done*

Over the past several weeks Ed Simpkins, trustee, has rewired the lights and most electrical outlets in the kitchen and put in a new and bigger fuse box in the cooler building that now serves both that building and the kitchen.

He has also wired the maintenance building and installed lights in it. A heating stove has also been built for it.

EARLY FARM TOOL IN BARN

The Village was the recent recipient of a hand-cranked, 1800's "fodder chopper" or ensilage maker. It was placed on display at the sorghum press during the festival and will be put on permanent display in the loft of the Lukens barn.

It was the gift of Mrs. James A Corbitt of West Carrollton from her father's farm in the Washington Court House area, on loan at present.

Donations and gifts to the Village are tax deductible. Mrs. Alva Adams keeps a complete record and sends acknowledgements to donors in a thorough system she has recently inaugurated.

HATFIELD HOUSE A RESIDENCE

Over the past weeks, the Merricks, the caretakers at the Village, have been busy with the many details of a new house a new location, and a new occupation, as well as moving in the bargain.

A few days after the fall festival they made the final move, and are now in residence in the caretaker house. Years of work, hours of planning, and months of anticipation are behind the reality at last of caretakers at the Hatfield house.

Both Jim and Sharon have spent much time preparing the house for final living with many details that needed attention which had been overlooked or ignored in the pressure to get the house finished and to turn attention to other projects.

A few items still need to be completed before cold weather, such as door moldings, better fitting thresholds (Don Patton said he will do those), some additional insulation, electric outlet covers, and so forth, but baseboard staining, wall painting, window trim, ceiling finishing, floor staining, floor covering for the upstairs, and additional light fixture installation had to be done before they could move in.

According to Jim, their furniture, ample for their previous home, was rather meager for this much larger house. An ingenious grouping of rug and furniture around the fireplace provides a delightful arrangement.

Sharon has plans for landscaping in the yard and Jim plans to continue the outside fence further to the rear on both sides and across the back.

RAISED CANE; PROUD OF IT

The sorghum cane was the best we have ever raised -- the opinion of most of the men who worked on it during the cutting and stripping at the harvest festival. It was tall, relatively weed-free, had few suckers, had now blown down except in a few small spots, and was very sweet.

The sweetness was not an unlimited virtue, however, as it was due to the prolonged season of dry weather the area has had. The dryness had dried out the outside of each stalk of cane, and when crushed, the sap adhered to the stalk as well as ran into the line to the sap pan. Some sap was lost in this.

After considerable engineering, not a small amount of fabricating, and many evening hours, the press was converted to electric power via a gearbox from the belt and pulley drive used in previous years. Don Patton supervised the press-operation and Homer Marsh was in charge of the furnace.

Stripping occupied most of the week of the 13th in heat and humidity. Cutting was completed Saturday morning.

As in years past, all the molasses was sold during festival.

SEVERAL BUILDINGS PAINTED

Terry Lawson has become the "Queen of the Paint Can" at the Village. In her time off from other jobs, she has painted many buildings.

Becky Apostelos has also trimmed the lower windows and doors of the gate house.

FALL FESTIVAL A GOOD SHOW

In what was probably the second most successful festival that the Village has ever held (after last year's fall festival) the Village grossed just short of seventeen thousand dollars for the two-day event.

Blessed with nearly perfect weather after a long hot spell buoyed by marvelous cooperation on the part of many members and aided by hard work on the part of those in attendance and with no serious hitches in procedure or planning, the festival ran smoothly by every one's standards. The grounds were nearly spotless after approximately six thousand of the most considerate visitors ever to visit such an event at the Village had passed through.

Although Linda Lee, festival chairman, reported the number of craftsmen was fewer than before, the stand-by displays and demonstrations such as sorghum and cider did well and attracted good crowds. The dried flower arrangements did did the best among the crafts, with a share turned to the Village of \$88.05. Vaughan Patrick did well as usual grinding cornmeal with his percentage at \$79.05. Wooden carvings and small ornaments sold by the Dugans brought the

Village \$71.21. Other crafts people donated lesses returns.

The sorghum operation grossed \$1,028, and the bake table, \$580 while the barbecue pit brought in \$1,514, the cider press, \$649 and the outdoor bake oven, \$677. The gate receipts of parking donations totaled \$4,689, the store \$675.47. Wagon, surrey and pony rides brought in over \$100.

The kitchen alone grossed \$4,550. All other food sales were supplementary, so the entire food sales amounted to a considerable figure.

TRUSTEE HOSPITALIZED

The Village members have been much concerned over the sudden illness of Bob Head, a Village trustee and in charge of the maintenance building construction. Bob became ill on a Friday afternoon while he was working on the building and was taken to the Stubbs Center and then to Kettering hospital when he was diagnosed as in a pre-heart attack condition.

While in Kettering he was in intensive care for some time and then in convalescent rooms, during which time he contracted pneumonia. He expects to be home by the time this newsletter is published.

We wish Bob well, and work is proceeding on the maintenance shed at the Village.

MOVIEW MARK LAST MEETING

The last meeting, once again held in the Lukens house, and well attended, featured "old house movies" and a selection of new slides by Joe Hatfield.

The "old movies" were not only made in the early seventies, but were about the dismantling of the Elam house and its move to the Village and the first festival. The new slides have been taken recently. Joe's photographic abilities were applauded by everyone.

The program for the second meeting in October, the 19th, will feature Mildred Crane, who will talk on the subject of fireplace cooking.

BEGINNER'S CLASS HELD

Kat Spray, member of the Village and the Miami Valley Weaver's Guild, held a beginners class for spinners in the Githens house, starting at 9:30 a.m. and lasting till 4 p.m. recently, during which eight young ladies learned the rudiments of spinning wheel operation.

LEE CONDUCTS VISITOR TOUR

Linda Lee hosted a recent tour of the Village for a busload of senior citizens from Cincinnati on a Royal Tours excursion, Sept. 25.

HELP NEEDED EVERY WEEKEND TO FINISH SUMMER PROJECTS

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