

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER March, 2008

Our thanks to everyone who gave a donation to our society, towards the cemetery repairs, and in remembrance of the deceased, loved ones.

The results of our election in January were: President--Pee Wee Hollembeak, Vice-President--Lyle Wilt, Secretary--Delores Moore, and Treasurer--Beverly Scholz. Our 200 calendars have sold quickly. We only have twelve left. We are looking for stories of Cherry Valley's past for this newsletter and Judy Slocum's Blossom Newsletter.

Ann Meyer reported that Midway Village in Rockford is seeking information and pictures of family farms in northern Illinois. Please send anything you might have to her at 2802 N. Bell School Road, Rockford, IL 61007

We have purchased a new Gateway laptop computer and a new HP printer for our Historical Society. This will help us to become better organized.

These folks have passed away since our last newsletter:

Orland H. Brockmann	84	January 1
Julie Benson	38	March 3

Julie was Jane (Benson) Neff's daughter.

Please keep Bob Wilson and Dick Sheldon in your prayers. Chemotherapy is so difficult for the body to experience.

We are planning another bake sale in May (third Fri. & Sat.), and another ice cream social in July. As soon as the ground is workable, etc., the guys will be working in the cemetery.

In the Cherry Valley News dated March 25, 1949 there appeared an article about Mrs. Josephine Slater. "The election was to be held April 7, 1925. It appears that certain residents of our village, particularly the ladies, had arrived at the conclusion that there should be a tightening up of the reins of government.

Early on election morning they gathered in nervous groups, and after considerable discussion decided that it was their duty to name a candidate for the office of mayor which was to be voted upon that day.

C. W. Buck was the candidate for re-election. He apparently had not been strict enough to satisfy the crusaders. "There's only one person who is capable to put across the reforms we propose said one. That's Mrs. Slater!" "But can we elect a woman to the office of mayor, questioned another?" "Why not, came the answer?" The movement grew like a snowball which had started to roll downhill. Vote for Mrs. Slater. Write her name

on the ballot. Put a circle in front of her name, and an x in the circle. So the words of instruction were passed through the village.

Mrs. Slater was cleaning house that lovely spring day when the delegation called to make certain that she would accept the position. It took some persuasion. You're just the one we want the ladies argued. You've proven that you have the ability. You've been president of the village school board for three years. You're an active member of the North Rockford W.C.T.U. You have been a worthy matron of Cherry Valley chapter of the Eastern Star for forty-five years. You have been high priestess of the White Shrine of Jerusalem. A woman who can do these things can certainly discharge the duties of the mayor.

Mrs. Slater thought it over while the ladies waited breathlessly for her answer. Finally it came in a most determined tone. "You can count on me she said, bringing her fist down on the table. I'll do my best. But I can't leave this housecleaning job to go out and campaign." "Leave that to us, chorused the women."

As the votes were counted, the folks of Cherry Valley showed more interest than they had evidenced in many presidential elections. The ladies groaned as they saw many votes thrown out because those who had gone to the polls had failed to put a circle and cross before Mrs. Slater's name after they had written it in. Finally the results were announced. She had won by a single vote.

Rushing to her newly cleaned house, they almost mobbed the tired woman as they shouted, "Congratulations mayor!" And it's said she made one of the finest mayors Cherry Valley ever had.

The memory of Mrs. Slater and her good work is being kept alive in this community by the chimes which her relatives have given to the Cherry Valley Methodist Church. (Author--Miss Esther Marie Knudsen).

Beverly (Oberg) Scholz, 404 Greenview Rd., Belvidere, IL 61008, 815-544-1146