

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER March, 2011

One of our members, Winton Holmes Page, age 90 passed away March 6th. He was confined to his home for the past year because of ill health, but he never lost his wonderful memory or gift of gab. It was a joy to visit with him. He knew my grandpa and grandma Chesak, and told me many stories about them. Also, he loved to talk about his childhood and the folks in his past in Cherry Valley. He was such a dear man. I feel blessed to have known him.

Others who passed away since the last newsletter are:

Dick Mitchell	80	January 28
Agnes Anne Anderson	88	February 10
Anthony "Tony" Frank Brodeski	91	February 11
Charlene "Charlie" L. (Mrs. Bill) Fisher	71	February 12

"The good Lord must have wanted us to do twice as much listening as talking, or He wouldn't have given us two ears and only one mouth."

I found this in a 1933 Cherry Valley M. E. Church cookbook: "To preserve children: Take one large, grassy field, one-half dozen children, two or three small dogs, a speck of brook and some pebbles. Mix the children and dogs well together and put them in the field, stirring constantly. Pour the brook over the pebbles; sprinkle the field with flowers; spread over all a deep blue sky and bake in the hot sun. When brown, remove and set to cool in a bath tub."

On January 16th several of us members attended a talk by Eve Kirk on Arm Chair of Cherry Valley in the C. V. Library. Eve showed many of the pictures of C. V. they have collected and have on line. This program was very interesting.

The following stories were given to me some time ago: Duane Nolley: "When he was small, the kids would memorize the words from the songs from reading the magazines in the confectionery store. Also he and a friend took paper bags and filled them with water from the town pump and threw them at cars for fun. After dark there wasn't much traffic in Cherry Valley."

Suzanne Kee: "We had no rural electrification in our part of Central Illinois until 1950. I was ten before we had plumbing or a furnace. We played cards late into the night under kerosene lamps. Hard working days of milking at three a.m. and again at three p.m. for the adults. Also, candling eggs, trundle sewing machine, and flat irons. It was great for kids with fresh air, climbing into the hay mow, and riding behind the mules or horses. Christmas then is a memorial treasure to me."

CHERRY VALLEY CLOCK

Cherry Valley, October 4, 1924 -- The regular meeting of the board of trustees of the village of Cherry Valley opened by the president C. W. Buck. Role call: Hoppock, Garrett, Manson, Cramer, Brooks, Peterson. Minutes of last meeting approved. Bills to C. V. Light and Power Company: lights \$54.20.

The following letter received from Josephine Slater.: "To the village board of the village of Cherry Valley, Ill. Josephine Slater of the village of Cherry Valley for and on behalf of her husband, William J. Slater, but now deceased by these presence, does hereby give and donate unconditionally to the village of Cherry Valley, Ill., the clock now erected and standing in front of the Cherry Valley State bank building in said Village, to have, keep, and forever maintain as a time piece and clock or the enjoyment, convenience and use of all the people of said village. Josephine Slater"

Motion made and carried to accept the clock and have the clerk write a letter of thanks to Mrs. Slater for the gift. Motion made and carried to adjourn. G. F. Conklin, Clerk.

The following was found in part of an article in a Rockford paper (date unknown). "Although the Cherry Valley state Bank survived the depression, it did eventually close its' doors in 1941, turning all of its' assets over to the Farmers National Bank in Belvidere."

In 1961, Slater's nephew, Roy C. Cleveland, went to the village board and asked permission to move the clock to the fire station, a distance of one block. Cleveland was a trustee on the Cherry Valley Fire Protection District Board. The clock was moved that year.

There is also some question as to whether or not the clock ever belonged to the fire department. An illustrated history of C. V. in booklet form compiled in 1968 by the Ways and Means Committee of the C. V. School P.T.A. stated that Josephine Slater willed the clock to Cleveland, who in turn sold it to the fire department for one dollar. Hutchison said, however, that he has found no documentation to support that claim.

Another unanswered question is when the clock was painted a silver-gray color. Its' original color was dark green. People who remember the clock being moved in 1961, said it was silver at that time. No one seems to know when, or for what reason the color changed occurred.

Restored to its' original color, the clock now stands across from the Village Hall in Memorial Park, where it continues to serve village residents and travelers alike, the legacy ticking on.

OUR LOG CABIN -- A BICENTENNIAL PROJECT

Police Chief James Truitt learned about the cabin through a friend in Endeavor, Wisconsin. He said he owns a cottage near where the cabin was. The cabin was 10 feet, 6 inches x 16 feet. It was used by migrant workers working the muck fields picking vegetables. It hadn't been used for twenty years.

Funds from Cherry Valley Beautiful committee projects financed the purchase of the eighty-five year old cabin from 'way back' in the woods on a lake near Endeavor, WI. These funds were acquired by sponsoring market days, flea markets, cookies and coffee from the hospitality bus manned by Mary Abramson, Evelyn Brennan and Irene Burke, with donations from other members of produce and cash. They paid \$110 for the cabin.

On a beautiful October morning in 1975, Leonard Lundquist, a general contractor, took his truck, and along with a truck loaned by C. V. Machine Tool Company. A group of seven men: Jim Truitt, Village President Paul Abramson, Andy Abramson, Don Baxter, Emmett Burke, Mike Truitt, and Lundquist drove to the cabin. They dismantled it, loaded it, and returned to C. V. in the afternoon.

"It was a lot of work but fun, Truitt said. It took us four to five hours. I didn't know too much about it, but had real good help from the other fellows." Lundquist said "the cabin was made of pine with crossed and notched logs and plaster in between them." To make the job easier, Emmett Burke first numbered all the logs before the building was taken apart. "If it didn't fit together, they had me to blame."

The disassembled cabin was placed in Memorial Park until a group of volunteers, many of them men in their sixties undertook the reconstruction project. First a foundation was poured, then the sides will be added. Later the floor, gables and roof will be put in place, together with a fireplace.

Mrs. Brennan estimated it will take \$150 more to put a shaker roof on the cabin and another \$100 for the materials for the fireplace. Gus Bloom, a village resident, has volunteered to do the work in the fireplace. Lundquist has promised to donate his labor on the floor.

This cabin was completed in 1976 for the Bicentennial, and it still stands today looking very appropriate in its' background and in our village.

Would you know who any of these folks are on the next page?

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Medley

ROCKFORD, ILL.



Erickson

ROCKFORD, ILL.



RISBERG



RISBERG