

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER --- JUNE 2008

Several of us ventured to the Flagg Township Historical Society in Rochelle, IL on April 13 for our spring trip. This was their original town hall & fire station. It now has three floors of very interesting artifacts. We enjoyed this very much.

On May 16th & 17th we had another bake sale when C.V. held their rummage sales. We made a profit of \$255.35. We also sold shirts & mugs at that time. Many of our ladies are very dedicated in helping with these sales. We appreciate their work very much.

These folks have passed away since our last newsletter:

Serfine (Slim) Claeysen	91	3/28
Robert N. Wilson	78	3/31

There will be a Memorial Service on 7/5 at 1pm at the C.V. Methodist Church for Bob.

Delores Jean (Burton) Peterson (Mrs. Francis L.)	77	4/18
Avis Lavonne Harmon	86	5/5
Donald R. Decker	74	5/21
Douglas D. Gable	64	5/15
Calvin E. 'Cal' West (wife-Marilyn Peacock)	73	6/6

History of Enders Greenhouse by Anne Meyer (April, 1999): "The Greenhouse was started by my grandparents, Karl & Anne Enders, in 1912. They built their first greenhouse on Hogan St. (the barn that burned behind the Doigs). They were only at this location for three years. They bought the property located on Enders Dr. from State St. to Clayton St. They tore down the original greenhouse on Hogan St. & built the existing greenhouse at the corner of State St. & Enders Alley. They also built a cement block House on the corner of Lawrence St. & State St. They were opened year-round Monday through Saturday.

The original heating was boilers fueled by coal. Then they were converted to gas when it became available in Cherry Valley. The temperature was controlled by opening & closing overhead windows. It is now done with modern heaters, all thermostat controlled.

Later, my Uncle Howard Enders took it over. It was closed during W.W.2 while Howard was in the Army. I first worked in the greenhouse when I was about 10 years old transplanting plants. I bought the greenhouse from my aunt in 1972.

When grandfather had the greenhouse, he had a truck garden also. He took vegetables & cut flowers to the Shumway Market in Rockford & my grandmother made flower arrangements. My uncle Howard raised cut flowers which he took to Rockford & Chicago. He was known for his snapdragons, calla lilies, & football mums. When he

died, my aunt Frieda was not well & I came at first to save the crop he had started. I ended up buying the greenhouse from her. That first year we had all vegetable plants & annuals, especially geraniums & pansies. My aunt Bessie Crill, Howard's sister, helped me out a lot the first few years, & my husband & all of our children pitched in to help me get started.

My daughter Becky Baeverstad, graduated in horticulture & owns Enders Flowers in Edgebrook Center in Rockford. I grew some cut flowers & plants for her, so we share a business interest. Our other three children are involved in agriculture & environmental economics.

During the winter we grow snapdragons, calla lilies, ranunculus & stock for cut flowers. In the summertime, we grow outdoor cut flowers. We have lots of bedding plants, nearly 100 varieties of herbs, (fragrant, culinary & medicinal), & all kinds of scented, trailing & Martha Washington geraniums. During my second year in the greenhouse I started bringing in woodland wild flowers from my own garden because I thought everyone should have some wild flowers. As interest has grown, we have added prairie & wetland species & native shrubs so that now we have over 300 species of native plants; most of them grown from seed which we collect from our own plants.

As we finish with the cut flowers, we make room for the bedding plants & wild flowers. We have prairie seeds year-round. We make wreaths with herbs & succulents, & prune our topiary. A favorite dwarf shrub to keep pruned like a miniature tree is a fragrant herb called dwarf myrtle. We don't grow & sell vegetables, but we do ship flowers to Enders Flowers & to flower shops in Chicago & Champaign, & the Flower Bin in Belvidere."

Ann sold the business in 2003 to Shannon Neuendorf. She ran it for two years. John Falzone operates the Cherry Valley greenhouse. He said all his annuals & perennials are grown in the greenhouse.

Ann continues to be active in preserving the environment with planting native prairie plants on a 15 acre site at Midway Village in Rockford. The Rockford Park District has become active in this project also.

On May 10th I moved to a new hi rise in Rockford (Spring Ridge). My address is: 6645 Fincham Dr., Rockford, IL 61108 Phone 815-227-1545. My special thanks to Patty Campbell, John Larson, & Pee Wee Hollembaek for helping me move.