

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER September, 2008

Our men have been working at the Cherry Valley Cemetery this summer. This is very strenuous work. It takes time and patience to reset the monuments and to repair and clean the grave markers. We appreciate the dedication of Pee Wee Hollembeak, Lyle Wilt, John Larson, and David White. Supplies for this work are expensive. Thank you for all the donations you have sent. Any future donations will be accepted. In place of a fall trip we (gals also) will be working at the cemetery for a day.

July 12th and 13th several members helped the Kishwaukee Kennel Club with a dog show at the Boone County Fairgrounds. The Kennel Club gave our society a check for \$130.00 for our efforts. August 10th we sponsored an ice cream social in the pavilion behind the tennis courts. We served cherry pie, homemade cake, brownies, ice cream, lemonade, coffee, and bottled water. It was a very cool day, but many came and we made a profit of \$230.00. On September 19th and 20th we held a bake sale, and made a profit of \$187.25. Many thanks to the ladies for all the homemade goodies.

These folks have passed away since our last newsletter:

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| Henry R. Morehead | 93 | May 17 |
| Rachel H. Henry | 93 | July 10 |
| Arlene Esther Faber | 71 | September 13 |

THE FIRST HOMECOMING (from an illustrated history of Cherry Valley, Illinois). "The idea, which resulted in the first Cherry Valley Homecoming, was conceived in the mind of Herbert Leaman, Master of the South Guilford Grange. His plan was quickly endorsed by the grange, and arrangements were made to have the event on Saturday, October 1, 1927.

Cherry Valley's two churches, South Guilford Grange, and members of every organization in Cherry Valley joined in the big celebration. Members were asked to contribute ten dollars if they could. Mrs. Charlotte Gannon was named secretary of the homecoming committee and the late George Kezar, who was the beloved mail carrier for thirty years, was named treasurer. Mr. Leaman, of course, was general chairman.

Congressman Henry Rathbone and Congressman John T. Buckbee were the speakers. The festivities opened with a parade headed by the Kirkland band at 10 am.

At 11 am there was a baseball game, and a bounteous dinner was served at noon by women of the two churches. The program which was presented at 2 pm, opened with an address of welcome by Mayor C. J. Hyland and a greeting to visitors by former mayor, Mrs. Josephine Slater. Postmaster Arthur L. Johnson introduced the congressmen. The Kirkland band played again in the evening, and the boy scouts conducted a candlelight service. This began a series of homecomings which has become a tradition."

We have several Homecoming booklets from 1927 through 1951 in our museum. In the 1927 booklet it is mentioned that St. Ritas and Cherry Valley Methodist Churches served lunches and dinners on the village green. I remember from the past that stoves were actually brought to the grounds for the ladies to cook on. The booklet also mentioned that they had ball games with the married men vs. the single men. There were musical programs, dancing, outdoor movies, carnival rides, and outdoor games.

In 1943 there was a formal dedication ceremony of the Community Honor Roll sponsored by the Arthur Buck Post#783 of the American Legion. Lieutenant Colonel Harvey E. Wilson of Camp Grant was the guest speaker for the service. There was a program of dancing Friday and Saturday from 10 pm to 1 am in Oberg's hall. George Edwards and his orchestra played for the dancing.

1945 -- There were boys and girls races (6 to 18 years of age). There were contests of egg catching, marshmallow eating, basket shooting, nail driving, balloons, and horseshoe pitching. There were ladies and men's races, girls and boy's shoe races, girls and boy's sack races, and a scavenger hunt. Musical selections: Knute Runberg -- accordion, George Gotto -- guitar, and Dale Manson -- solo. Also, acrobatics by Sally Anderson.

In the 1948 Homecoming booklet there was music by the Gorsuch Hot Shots, a vocal solo by Shirley Summers, accordion solo by Michael Allongze, piano selections by "Millie" Jean Hallstrom, a vocal duet by Lodena Holt and Betty Bennett, and an accordion duet by Benita Banks and Mona Larson. There was a greased pig for the boys between 15 and 25. Also, a prize was given for the largest family present on the ground.

In 1949 "The Drum and Bugle Corp -- The Eagle band will play Saturday evening. This band has been national champion of the FOE since 1940. It has played for the vice president of the United States. Its' manager won the title of the world champion drum major at Paris. Its' majorette has won many honors. This band of fifty pieces is known for its' high, brilliant music."

1949 There were water fights, a greased pole, egg throwing and pie eating contests. Music: Benita Banks -- accordion, Richard Cordonnier -- vocal solos, Skipper Nash and Darlene Pitney -- vocal duet, Benita Banks -- piano solo, Beverly DeWane -- accordion solo, and Mona Larson -- accordion selection. Tap dancing: Patricia Ann Dickinson and Nancy and Peggy Gustafson. Mona Larson was marshalette of the parades for many years.

Lodena Wilt donated a recipe recently which she found in a 1978 recipe book. Home Coming BBQ: 5 lbs. beef (ground coarse), 2 ½ tsp. salt, 5 tsp. dry mustard, 2 medium onions, 2 green peppers, 2 ½ bottles of catsup, 5 Tbsp. vinegar, and 5 Tbsp. sugar. Brown meat, onions, and peppers slightly. Add other ingredients and simmer slowly for at least one hour or more.

This recipe was served at the homecomings, and at the food stand for the baseball games.

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