

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER, 2012

We had a very successful bake sale this month. We wish we had additional ways to bring in extra money, but we need more volunteers (members) to be willing to help. We continue to be open from 11am to 1pm every second and fourth Saturday all year. We also come in at 10am to do some work on our museum.

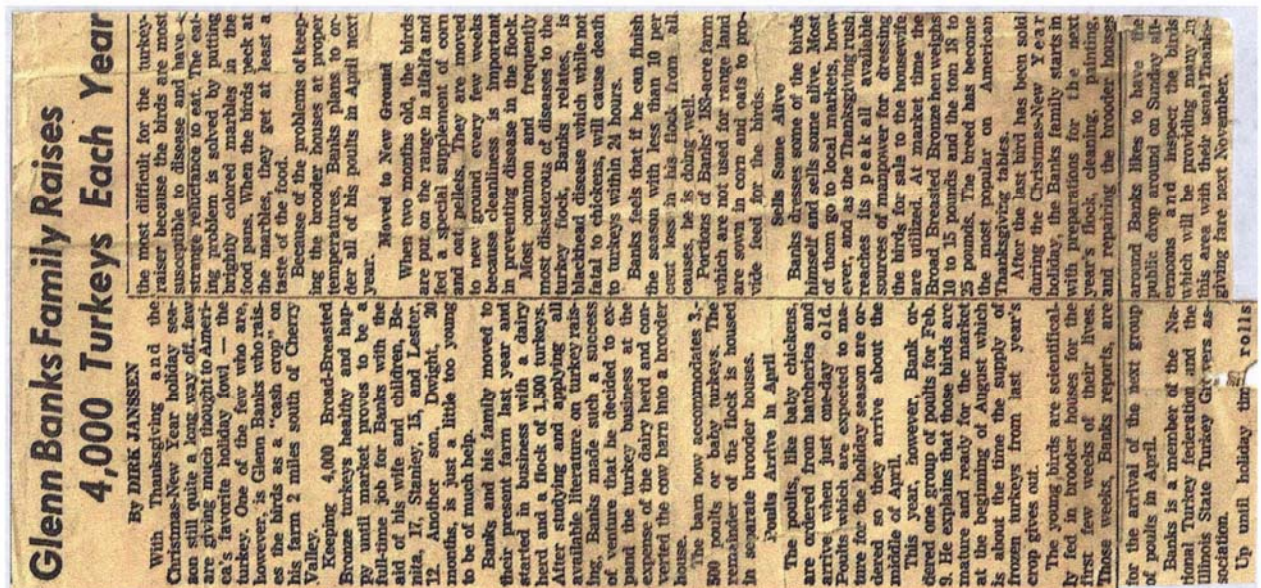
The following have passed away since our last writing:

Kenneth Yunek		March 31, 2012
Edith McNair	92	June 16
Viola K. (Virnig) Devoe	84	June 17
Robert W. "Bobber" "Smokey" Anger	63	June 27
Warren Paul Fox	86	September 9

Bill Yunek wrote recently "Jesse Roberts showed him how to run the phonograph record player in the belfry of the Methodist Church on Sunday mornings. We miss Donna and Jesse so much."

Also, he writes "I remember well when living on Van Buren St. running down to the corner at Poulton's and watching the Puruall loads of German prisoners of war heading to the pea cannery in Belvidere to work. I think they were housed at Camp Grant in Rockford. It was in the mid 1940's." This is what we are looking for to add to the newsletter folks--old, precious memories. Please send. We don't want them to be lost.

Bill and Benita (Banks) Yunek live in Idaho. They sent me the following articles about the Glen Banks Family Turkey Farm (Circa 1951):



Holiday Time Will Be Harvest



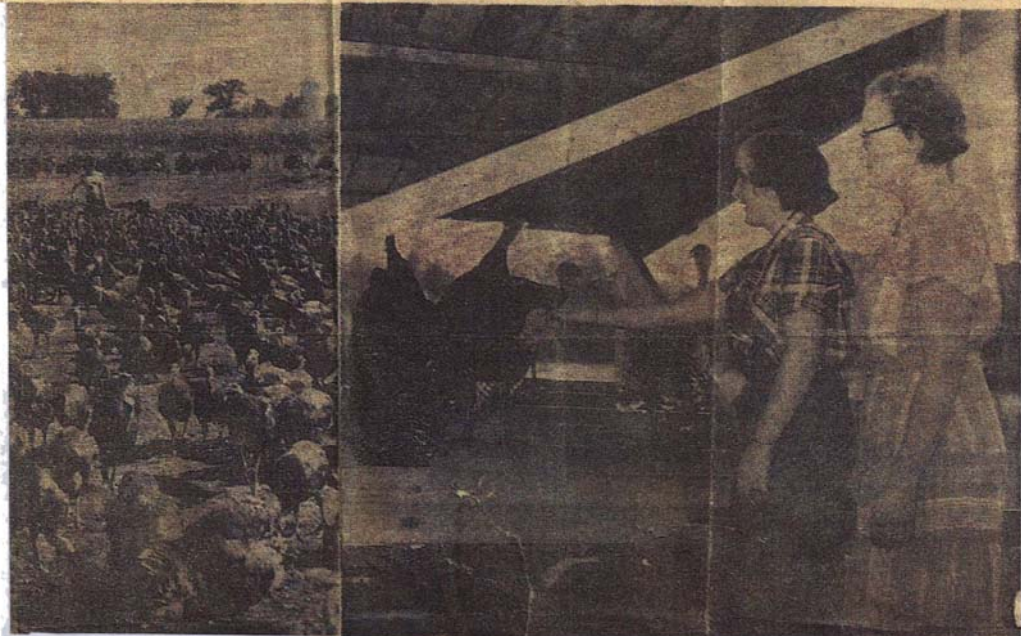
Harvest time will not come on the Glen Banks farm near Cherry Valley until the annual Thanksgiving time rush on turkeys in November although some of the birds will find

their way to market sooner. Inspecting some of the flock in the left hand picture are Banks and 20-month-old Dwight Banks who looks a little suspicious of the birds which are

as big as he is. Two other sons in the center photo, Stanley, 15, left, and Lester, 12, right, help their father in caring for the flock of 4,000 birds, only a portion of which are shown here. In the picture at the right Benita Banks, 17, and Mrs. Banks inspect one of the turkey shelters. This is the second year the Banks family has raised turkeys.

ROCKFORD MORNING STAR Sunday, August 12, 1951 ★ D 7

Time for Cherry Valley Turkey Farm



FIRE DESTROYS ELEVATOR at CHERRY VALLEY
SEPTEMBER 3, 1934
(News article taken from the Rockford Morning Star)

The Hyland Brothers grain elevator at Cherry Valley was completely destroyed in a spectacular fire early this morning. Quick response by the Rockford fire department to a call for help, prevented a spread of the fire to adjacent lumber yards and the Northwestern Railroad Depot.

The fire was first discovered at one am when the interior of the elevator was a seething furnace. Firefighting equipment at Cherry Valley was unable to cope with the situation because of a lack of pumping equipment necessary for a conflagration of such magnitude.

An appeal for aid was sent to the Rockford fire department and a pumper was dispatched to the village immediately. Water was pumped from the Kishwaukee River. At first the firemen concentrated their efforts on the nearby Wright Co. lumber yards and buildings, and the railroad depot.

Although the operators of the elevator could not be reached early this morning, it was learned that several thousand bushels of grain were stored in the structure. It was reported that neither the building nor the grain was insured.

Spontaneous combustion within grain bins was believed to have caused the fire. Shortly after two am the flames had been completely extinguished and at that time an intermittent drizzle which had prevailed for some time developed into a steady down-pour.

Although the elevator structure had been completely leveled, other buildings nearby had been saved, there having been only minor damage to lumber shed.

While the fire was at its' height, the flames could easily be seen from Rockford. Embers shot high into the air and the entire eastern horizon reflected the glow of the blazing elevator. There was no estimate of the loss available early this morning.

HYLAND'S ELEVATOR FIRE SEPTEMBER 3, 1934

I didn't remember the time, but after reading the newspaper account, I now know why my brothers were not there. It was after one am that they came, or called our home for my dad to save his tanker gas truck. They weren't sure the fire could be stopped.

I remember sitting on the railroad tracks and they were warm. It was quite a sight. I stayed there until it was over.

There is one glaring mistake in the Rockford paper. When the firetruck arrived, the captain was afraid to take his fire truck down to the river access behind the blacksmith shop. The river access was made for that purpose.

It wasn't until the fire truck came from Belvidere and drove down to the river, that they ran a hose to the fire. At that time they were concerned with saving Wright's lumber yard and coal bins. The west end of Wright's coal bins were scorched black. They sprayed water on the roof of the building and prevented the embers from the fire to spread to the other buildings.

I don't remember how long it took to rebuild the elevator and replace some of Hyland Brother's coal bins. Charles Hyland had an open house with donuts and other refreshments for the guests.

I remember getting rides on the hoist. This was used to raise the front end of the farmer's wagons to dump the grain for sale or grinding for their animals.

We used to buy a lot of chicken feed from Mr. Hyland. He even sold baby chicks. We bought most of them from a hatchery in Byron. We would buy up to two hundred baby chicks a year.

When we moved to the home place on Mill Road, we had a small chicken house and could only raise fifty at a time. For a 4H project, I bought twenty-five or fifty Rohde Island Reds. The feed bags were printed with a design and mom used them for a lot of things, including sheets for my bed.

Written by Lyle Wilt

Cherry Valley United Methodist Church

112 S. Cherry Street, Cherry Valley, Illinois 61016

Worship Service: Sun 10 am

Sunday School: 8:45 am to 9:45 am



"The Church in the Valley"

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Your newsletter reporter, Beverly M. (Oberg) Scholz,

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