

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER Oct 2013

Fall is my favorite time of year. Gone are the hot sticky days of summer, replaced by the crisp mornings, and the glorious colors of autumn. Children are settling into their school routine, and holiday plans are already creeping into our heads. This fall, the library gave everyone who passed through Cherry Valley (almost 50) reasons to smile. I hope many of you had the chance to view the scarecrows all over town. Their 'adopt a scarecrow' project was a huge hit..so much so that we couldn't resist printing all of the entries along with the winners.

The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Ruth B. 'Babe' Keating (Mrs. William Keating) 85
Steven R. Anderson 67
Robert E. McWilliams 80
Marilyn Jane Williams (Mrs. Earl 'Mickey' Williams) 89

In the last newsletter, in the article on the American Legion Hall, I listed the names on the charter plaque located there. My sincere apologies to the family of Horace H. Poulton for misspelling his name! The Poulton family is one of the pioneer families of Cherry Valley and can be traced back several generations. Horace was buried with military honors in the Cherry Valley cemetery (formerly Poulton Cemetery).

Just a reminder, the \$10 yearly dues for your 2014 CVHS membership are due in January. Please note that if you are mailing anything to us, use PO Box 266 in the address instead of the street address. There is some confusion with the P.O. sorting machines and we want to make sure no mail goes astray. The box number will now be listed at the bottom of every newsletter along with our other contact information.

I hope that our readers took a moment to remember all those who have served, or are currently serving in the military this past Veteran's Day.

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Veterans

By PeeWee Hollembeak

As the soldier crawled across the battlefield terrain, toward the front he did stare
surrounded by the whistling bullets and the bomb's bright glare
His thoughts went out to his family, to all the people at home, to whom he did care
The cries of the wounded fill the air
The dead and maimed lie everywhere

All this because a tyrant wanted to rule
this death and destruction caused by a fool
The tanks, guns and infantry all parts of wars' many tools

The soldier, his mind deep in thought
reached in his shirt pocket for the letter from his wife and child, for whom that he fought

She told him that she loved him, and how his son was growing up so fast
She hoped that the war was soon over and he would come home at last

But here in April of 1945 there was still fighting to do
A few more battles - for the old red, white, and blue

He knew not that his time drew near
after they took the Siegfried Line, it was on to Germany
He had nothing to fear

He forgot that one German sniper still had a gun
when the bullet ripped through his chest, he thought of his wife and son

He had made it through D-Day, the Liberation of Paris, and the Battle of the Bulge,
If only he had made it a few more weeks
He wouldn't have had all this pain and tears running down his cheeks

As the lifeblood drained from him onto the ground
He would never know that shortly the tyrant would be dead, and peace would be found

Like so may of his comrades from that terrible war
Their deeds and accomplishments have become folklore

The movies and TV often glorify war
but to the men and women lying under the rows of white crosses on many foreign shores
The price of liberty is full of many terrible horrors

So we should not forget what these now elderly men and women have done
If not for their bravery and sacrifice we might be living under the German Swastika, or Japan's
flag, the Rising Sun





Photo donated by Beverly Oberg Scholz

The Interurban Steam Engine in Cherry Valley

Shortly before the Interurban was discontinued, B.J. Arnold (who owned the Belvidere and Elgin Interurban Co. and Arnold Engineering Co. in Marengo.) bought the 'Rockford to Belvidere' segment of the Rockford and Interurban Co. When in 1930 the line was discontinued due to mounting revenue losses, the tracks and trolley poles had to be removed.

While traveling by train for a business trip out east, he passed a quarry and saw two Forney Steam Engines previously used on the New York Elevated Transit System. Being a man of influence, he had the train stop. He purchased the engines and had them shipped back to Marengo by rail. His company constructed a home made steam crane to pull up the rails and electric poles from Rockford to Elgin. The story goes that as soon as the power was shut down, thieves started to remove the wires for junk.

The above picture was taken during this period of time by Kathryn Oberg in downtown Cherry Valley. The engine and crane are sitting on the siding in front of the stores and the Interurban Depot.

by John Larson

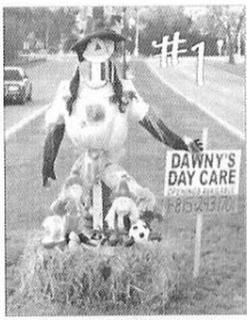
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Editor.... Pam Jeske (golfnsew@aol.com)

Please feel free to drop a line, add some content, share some stories either to my e-mail, the Historical Society's e-mail (cv.historical186@frontier.com)

Cherry Valley Historical Society, Box 266, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Or stop by, leave a note ...have a chat with a member!



#1
"Dawny's Daycare"



#2
"Love Your River"



#3
"Bicycle Man"



#4
"Hot Wings"



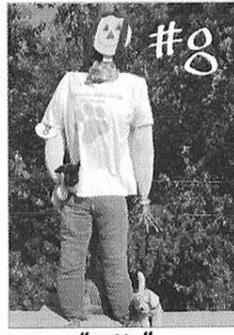
#5
"Homeless Hannah"



#6
"Sailor Boy"



#7
"Iily"



#8
"Betty"



#9
"Clowning Halloween Fun"



#10
"Grandma Winky"



#11
"Festus the Festival Goer"



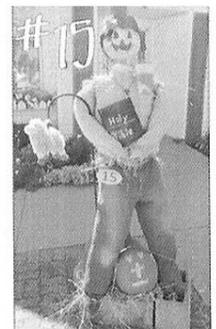
#12
"Gertie the Gardener"



#13
"Sherlock"



#14
"Do You Alpine?"



#15
"Pastor"



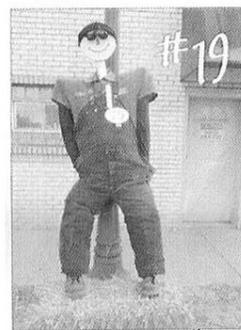
#16
"Stitchy Witchy"



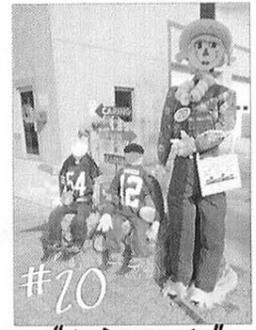
#17
"Anchor Away"



#18
"Smokey Crow"



#19
"Machine Man"



#20
"Go Daycare Go"



#21
"Backyard Grill & Bar"



#22
"Mailman Mick"



#23
"Cherry Miranda"



#24
"The Knight of Cherry Valley"



#25
"Autumn Princess"



#26

"Cafe Waitress"



#27

"Shell Employee"



#28

"Painter"



#29

"Patty Preschooler"



#30

"Garden Lady"



#31

"Big Brother"



#32

"Singing in the Rain"



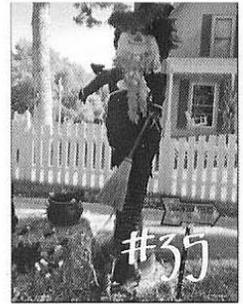
#33

"Little Brother"



#34

"Farmer in the Valley"



#35

"Wicked Witch"



#36

"Victor the Village Worker"



#37

"Pirate"



#38

"Goodnight Moon"



#39

"Smiley Emma"



#40

"The Graduate"



#41

"Winnie the White Swan"



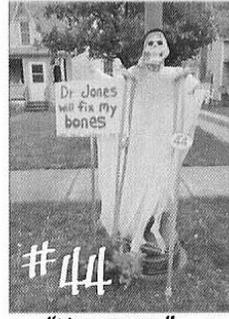
#42

"Minnie Pearl"



#43

"Cheetah Football"



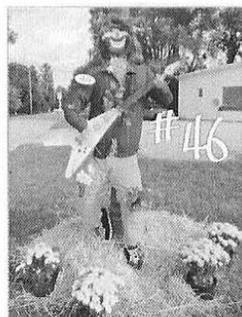
#44

"Mrs. Boles"



#45

"Chester the Cherry Valley Cheetah"



#46

"Flower Child"



#47

"Scarecrow Fred"



#49

"Go Joe!"