

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2006

Once again we thank Pee Wee and Sally Hollembeak for an enjoyable Christmas potluck in their home. Eighteen members attended. A very lovely home for a party.

We are currently selling 2007 calendars of scenes from Cherry Valley in the 1800's and 1900's for a fundraiser. We have already sold 100. The price is \$7.00. We have ordered another fifty. We appreciate Patty Campbell's daughter Kitty for suggesting this.

In recent months our members Sandy Baxter and Bea Davidson were bitten by a brown recluse spider. These were two different happenings and each lady was hospitalized several days. We are thankful they have recovered.

A few months ago a very interesting article about Nancy Belt entitled "Get To Know Me" appeared in the Rockford Register Star. This year she celebrated 25 years with the village of Cherry Valley. Nancy, as many of you might remember, was the founder of our C. V. Historical Society in 1995. We have this article in our museum, if you would like to read it.

The following folks have passed away since our last newsletter:

Mary M. Cottrell	85	October 7
Ronald Biersdorff	72	November 12
Donald Raymond Larson	78	December 2
Gerald W. Carlson	87	December 16
Richard Fredrick Otto	74	December 19

An article from the "Cherry Valley News" dated February 10, 1950: "The popularity of C. V.'s new outdoor skating rink is exceeding the expectations of even its' most enthusiastic promoters. In the sixteen days it has been open to the public it has been used by more than 2,500 skaters. Most of these come in the evening when the park is attractively illuminated. However, scores of children use it each afternoon.

The pond is kept in perfect condition by its' promoters, the C. V. Business Men's Association. Those who seem to be taking the lead in this work are Forrest Houghton, Elmer Johnson, Clarence Offenheiser, and Carson McFaul. They are assisted by others. In an inconspicuous spot down by the river bank Bob Ronnenberg operates the fire department equipment which pumps the water. More than 63,000 gallons of water have been sprayed over the park since the rink was established.

Night after night when the skaters have gone home the business men and their helpers get brooms from the school and thoroughly sweep the pond. Then they spray it with hundreds of gallons of water. This often requires from three to four hours of hard work."

Annual dues of \$10 are due January, 2007. Your newsletter reporter, Beverly Scholz