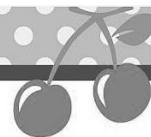


CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
2020 First Quarter



"March is a month of considerable frustration - it is so near spring and yet across a great deal of the country the weather is still so changeable that outdoor activity in our yards seems light years away." —
Thalassa Cruso



The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Mary Lou Gundhus-Millar	90	Dec 2019
Gary Popham		Dec 2019
Ida Mae Fox	93	Dec 2019
John C. Walling	79	Feb 2020



Bill Yunek has donated a new expanded painting of “**Down in the Valley**” Circa 1948. It is absolutely amazing, and such a generous gift. The previous one has been given to the library to display, as per his wishes. The talent and attention to detail just can’t be appreciated, unless you see it in person. Please stop by and check it out in full color! Here is his description of the scene.....From left to right.

The white House is from memory. It is the Poulton house, at the corner of Vanburen and State St. I believe Eleanor Poulton lived there. The telephone switch board was in the front room. I remember seeing it as a boy.

The blue house was the Markham home. It had an upstairs apartment. Dwight and Linda Banks were the tenants. Next you see part of Dr Klontz's office followed by the North Grocery store that became Johnson's Grocery store, even later the building became Avery's hardware store.

Then you pass the grease pit and garage before you arrived at the gas station. The car parked there is supposed to be my Grandpa Harrower's 1935 Plymouth coupe. The station building itself, I believe, was made out of a heavy cardboard. There was a fake room up above with no floor in it. I climbed up the back part of it to check it out. A Mr. Hearst from Rockford owned the building along with the Cozy Cafe section. In the back of the building there was a large apartment where Stanley Haney's family lived.

Charlie Walker ran the Cozy Cafe. Always fun to put a nickel in the Nickelodeon and try to Jitterbug to the Johnson Rag. There was a Pool Table in the back room.

The red truck is supposed to belong to Eugene Fry. Dad bought it from him. It used to be black. And around the corner are Bill and Nell Harned's home. My Dad taught Bill how to play Cribbage and they had a crib tournament that year which Bill Harned won. I believe old Sam Robbins taught us how to play.

Next is the church of my youth, where I first met Jesus. How we loved Donna & Jesse Roberts! I remember seeing and hearing my Mom singing in the choir. Hope Swensen use to play her violin. Albert Whitehand was the Sunday School superintendent. Bobby and Janice Dobson's' house comes next.



The Old Home Town

O, the old home town is a treasured place
A town where you love to go,
To tread once more on familiar streets,
Greeting friends that you used to know.
And you grip the hand of the friends of yore,
Kind of wishing the old days back once more,
As you delve in the treasures of memory's store
When back in the old home town.

By Sam Knighton



Hiking to Cherry Valley

The Rock River Times, Feb 19, 2020, had an article titled "The Blackhawk Trails Club disbands after 94 years". While not Cherry Valley history, it was interesting that their first hike back on Feb 6, 1938 (brr!) was from the Rockford Library to Cherry Valley. They took the Interurban back to Rockford.



The Village Today

From the Rockford Republic, February 11, 1910.

Many years have intervened since the railroad first went through Cherry Valley. The village has no more than 600 inhabitants, and the quality of citizenship is high. The residents are a prosperous class, owning fine homes and having every comfort and most of the luxuries of city dwellers. In proportion to its population, Cherry Valley has more cement sidewalks than any village in the state. The business section is located in a substantial row of buildings on State Street through which the Interurban cars pass on their way to Belvidere. The stores have excellent modern fronts for the display of articles, and it is likely that State Street will be built up on both sides soon, especially since the new Cherry Valley State Bank is opposite the row of business houses.

The new Cherry Valley State Bank is the pride of the town.--thoroughly fire-proof and constructed of vitrified brick with ornamented stone facings, and heavy plate glass windows. The fixtures are

mission, and the decorative theme is artistically simple. The bank was long desired, and has the financial confidence of the community.

The residents do not have to leave their own village for things needed in the home, or on the farm:

Slater & Son conduct a large grocery and dry goods establishment, carrying a carefully selected stock of goods, and have an attentive staff of clerks.

C.B. Culver operated a grocery business and also carries a big stock of hardware. He is one of the progressive citizens and his store is strongly patronized.

Alphonso King, a pharmacist and chemist, owns a drug store with everything required to fill prescriptions rapidly and correctly.

R. F. Lee conducts a very successful hardware and lumber business and is another progressive citizen, always with an eye to the welfare of the town.

Jordan Brothers own a meat and grocery store in which much business is done. The firm believes in giving every buyer a square deal.

Hyland Brothers operate the coal and grain business and own the elevator which has a large capacity and is well located along the railroad tracks.

C. J. Carlson has a fine confectionery parlor where cigars, candles, soda water and pop can be bought.

George Burke's general blacksmithy completes the village's business places and is a favorite stopping place for area farmers.

Cherry Valley has a \$15,000 high school which will rank with any country school.

And when it comes to genuine manly sports the village hasn't an equal in the Middle West. It has been the home of many excellent track horses and the abiding place of many good ball players. C. B. Kimlin, a veteran horseman, is making his permanent home in the village. When the Republic staff correspondent and photographer called at the Kimlin stables, they were shown a string of well bred horses that have established themselves on the track. Last season Mr. Kimlin was in the money ten times out of eleven starts. Herb Traveller, another prominent citizen of the village, is also a lover of good horse flesh. For the past several years he has been very successful with fast steppers. Gene Keep at present is jogging his fine stallion, Honest David. He is one of the finest pieces of horse flesh in the village.

This article was found on Genealogytrails.com. A history site created by volunteers dedicated to free genealogy research. It's a wonderful site to browse and discover.



Everyone was pretty excited waiting for the remodel and opening of Cherry Valley's latest business! It's been a long time since the village had a grocery store, and I don't think they've ever had one quite like this! Those who haven't been to visit in the valley for awhile will want to be sure and check it out. They did a beautiful job remodeling the vintage building while keeping a sense of small town charm. The ice cream treats are premium goodness!



Terry Murphy, a lifelong Cherry Valley resident had always envisioned organizing a non for profit organization with a group of Cherry Valley area men with the goal of helping Cherry Valley area children and the community in general. In 2011 he put his ideas into action and the Cherry Valley Area Men's Association was established. Sadly Terry passed away in 2017 but his vision and goals are the driving force of our organization. We are a small organization that raises money through various events, company sponsors and membership dues. We donate to various community needs and offer five \$500 scholarships per year towards continuing education.

Cherry Valley Area Men's Association is a Nonprofit 501 (C)(3) organization Fed ID # 90-0674903

Events Cherry Valley Area Men's Association has sponsored or contributed to:

1. Petitioned and got the speed limit reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph on Harrison (Bypass 20) and Mill Road intersection.
2. Established an educational scholarship program donating five \$500 scholarships every year.
3. Donated uniforms and equipment for the 4th and 5th grade boys and girls basketball teams at Cherry Valley School
4. Donated cheerleading uniforms for the 4th and 5th grade Cherry Valley School Spirit squad.
5. CVAMA members assist with the yearly food and paper shredding drive at Village Hall.
6. Raised funds for uniforms for the Goldie B. Floberg special athletes.
7. CVAMA worked with the Winnebago County Forest Preserve to design, produce and install rules of the river signs at six county forest preserves.
8. Donated to the 2011 and 2012 downtown Cherry Valley Christmas lights
9. Donated and passed out over 4,000 Frisbees at the Cherry Valley 4th of July parade 2012 thru 2018.
10. Sponsored the Oscar Meyer Weiner Mobile at the 2012 4th of July parade.
11. Sponsor the Cherry Valley Family Night Ice skating at Carlson Ice Arena 2016-2018
12. Sponsored Cherry Valley 4th and 5th grade basketball players to youth basketball clinics.
13. Mini Golf and silent auction sponsor 2017, 2018 Cherry Valley Public Library fundraiser.
14. Sponsored Wild Life Exhibit and Educational Show Cherry Valley Public Library 2017
15. Donated a defibrillator to the Cherry Valley Police Department.
16. Sponsor the Cherry Valley Bounce Night at the Gymnastics Academy South for 2017 and 2018.
17. Contributed fishing poles and tackle boxes to the Cherry Valley Library that can be used with a library card.
18. Sponsor the Cherry Valley Library tour at the Burpee Museum 2018
19. Sponsor Cherry Valley Library Furry and Friends Petting Zoo 2018

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Cherry Valley

Methodist Women



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Thank you to the Cherry Valley Village Hall for their wonderful support and assistance.



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