

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
2022 Fourth Quarter



We would like to remind you that the Historical Society will now be open every first Sunday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00. We will be having “Guest Hosts” who will come to talk about their time in Cherry Valley. Great time for discussions, questions and memories. We’d love to have you attend our meetings at 3:00!



The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Walter “Jack” Smith May 18, 1934 - September 29, 2022 (88 yrs old)
Daniel J Frystak April 13, 1955 - September 13, 2022 (67 yrs old)
Frederick H. Stevens April 1, 1938 - September 14, 2022 (84 yrs old)
Blair A. Neff May 9, 1956 - July 26, 2022 (66 yrs old)
George B. Wanfalt March 28, 1930 - July 9, 2022 (92 Yrs old)

We send our condolences to their family and friends.



Another reminder: Please look around your homes for Cherry Valley items for our displays. If you have items to donate, contact the Historical Society at, mnms1010@gmail.com, and give a brief description of the item and its historical background. We are also gathering information about former businesses and individual homes and for individuals to help research Cherry Valley businesses and homes, as well. If interested, contact the above email.



Did you know this gentleman standing at the counter of his Cherry Valley hardware store? This picture is Homer Green, a resident in Cherry Valley for 45 years. Many of you may remember that he and his wife, Viola “VI” Kling Green, ran an antique shop located behind their home on S. Cherry Street for many years. Picture (circa 1941) donated by the family of Lodena Wilt).





Homer picked me (Sue Simonson) to tell his story and how he helped shape Cherry Valley's history. This post card fell onto the floor in front of me during a random clean up in the CV Historical Society building. I was intrigued with this picture of the young school children and on the back was a lovely note their teacher, Nellie M. Maxwell, wrote. It was addressed to Homer (1st grade). I assumed this picture postcard was of Homer's first grade class in Cherry Valley, but research told me differently.

Our Homer Harry Green, born on June 14, 1909 was the last child born to Arthur Clinton Green (1870-1941) and Cora Alice Robertson Green (1875 – 1956) in Appleton City, St Clare County, Missouri. You are probably wondering what someone from Appleton City has to do with Cherry Valley, Illinois. Me too. The first thing I learned is that this picture was taken in Missouri not Cherry Valley, in fact, he never attended school here. Turns out that his eldest sister, Flora Elizabeth Green Wilt (1898-1985) was living here and Homer, as an adult, came for a visit and ended up staying for the rest of his life.

Homer met and eventually married Viola Kling on October 19, 1937.



Homer was the manager/owner of the Standard Oil service station (east end of State Street) for several years and then the United States Selective Service sent him an invitation (a.k.a. draft notice) to join the US Armed Forces in early August of 1943. From best I can tell during his two years of service, he went to Texas and then to California before shipping out to New Caledonia in the southwestern Pacific. Corporal Homer Green served in World War II until December 1945 when he mustered out through Rockford's Camp Grant.

After the war, Homer and Vi opened their home to Homer's mother, Cora who lived the rest of her life with them. The Greens never had any children, but the reason is not apparent. Later, they owned and ran the little antique shop behind their home for many years. I want to think Vi ran the antique shop and Homer, being good with his hands, tinkered with refurbishing old furniture and repairing electronics. I imagine him as being the Andy Griffith character, Emmett Clark, who ran Emmett's Fix-it shop.

Partial copy from the Belvidere Daily Republican (Belvidere, IL) 19 Dec 1977.

Homer H. Green 68, Cherry Valley, died Saturday morning at St. Anthony Hospital after a brief illness.Surviving are his widow, Viola, one brother, Elmer Green of Appleton City and two sisters Mrs. Flora Wilt -Cherry Valley and Mrs. Blanche Gerken of Montrose, Mo. He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother Albertr and one sister Flossie Mannen. Funeral services were held today at Witbeck-Wheeler Sabien Funeral Home. The Rev. Ralph Wilson, pastor of the Cherry Valley United Methodist Church officiated. Burial was in the Cherry Valley Cemetery. Pallbearers were Ronald Barton, Homer Shaffer, Herbert Bates, Oral Holt, Stephen Appell and Vernon Wilt.

Homer passed away at the young age of 68 on December 17, 1977. Vi passed away ten years later in 1987. Both are buried in the Cherry Valley Cemetery.

Thank you, Homer Harry Green, for allowing me to show how you helped shape Cherry Valley into the wonderful place it is to live today.

The village of Cherry Valley has always prided itself on hosting community events for its residents throughout the years. Most recently, the Easter candy scramble, family outdoor movie night, youth fishing tournament, street dance, Fourth of July parade and fireworks show, and the Halloween parade are some of the annual events that are planned for the enjoyment of the community. As we look forward to the holiday season quickly approaching, you can bet that the Cherry Valley children are already excited about the arrival of Santa Claus the Sunday after Thanksgiving! We thought you might enjoy these news articles from 1975 about a special Christmas party planned for the village citizens.

B10 MORNING STAR, ROCKFORD Thursday, Dec. 11, 1975

Village planning party for all

CHERRY VALLEY — When this village throws a party, all the villagers are invited.

Christmas will be no different, Evelyn Brennan of the Cherry Valley Beautiful Committee said Tuesday.

The Christmas party is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Dec. 22.

"It's going to be an old-fashioned type Christmas party," Mrs. Brennan said.

Children residents of the village led by the Girl Scouts "and any adult who wants to join in" will first assemble at the village hall and the newly built Bicentennial log cabin.

Next will come a caroling party throughout the village.

"Judy Hager and Donna Reese will be in charge of the carolers," Mrs. Brennan said. "Harry Eckert will

accompany them on his guitar and sing."

The carolers will then return to the village hall where a wassailing party will begin. The village board Tuesday gave permission for the party.

"Can you imagine Rockford City Council giving permission for a wassailing party in their council chambers?" Mrs. Brennan asked. "That's what a small town is all about

— being able to do this.

Served at the wassail party will, of course, be wassail, Mrs. Brennan said. The name of this apple cider punch means "to your good health" in Anglo-Saxon. There also will be cookies, coffee and hot chocolate.

"Everything will be donated and everything will be homemade by residents of the village," Mrs. Brennan said.



Santa's behind bars
... "Wired for bail money"

Santa first in new jail

• Related photos, Page A-3

CHERRY VALLEY — Cherry Valley has a new jail and jolly ole Santa Claus became the first person to be locked up.

Santa was nabbed by police chief Ralph Truitt Monday night while leaving a village hall Christmas party. Truitt later admitted that Santa's act was staged to commemorate the opening of the new jail.

Santa Claus was played by Mrs. Sheryl Brennan, of Cherry Valley.

A crowd of about 50 persons stormed the police station after Santa was taken into custody. One small child asked with tears in her eyes if Santa would be out in time for Christmas.

"Don't worry," Santa said, "I wired the North Pole for bail money."

A few minutes later, Truitt announced to a cheering crowd, that he was releasing Santa on personal recognizance because of good behavior.



The theme for the Cherry Valley Library’s 2022 Scarecrows on Parade was musicals and musicians. The Historical Society chose to depict Rockford resident, Rick Nielson, the leader of the world famous rock band Cheap Trick. One of his iconic checkered guitars is displayed at the Rockford Hard Rock Casino and another Swedish flag themed guitar adorns a wall at the Stockholm Inn restaurant. Rich and Donna Riha, Pat Stegemann, Jill Tryggestad and Melynda Mungor assembled the scarecrow which is displayed in front of the Historical Society Museum.

A Paint and Pop fundraiser was held at the Cherry Valley First United Methodist Church to benefit the Historical Society on October 1st. Each of the 44 participants was able to purchase a seasonal decoration or door hanging kit from a variety of available designs. Everything needed to paint and assemble the decorations was provided by Aimee Riha, owner of Etched by heart Designs (available on Etsy) who guided the participants through the process. Pop and snacks were also provided by the members and friends of the Historical Society. Beautiful decorations were created and new friends were made, as well! Everyone agreed they would like to do this again, possibly in the spring. We are so grateful to Lori Kuhn for suggesting the idea and coordinating the event and to Aimee Riha who spent many hours taking orders, laser cutting the wooden pieces, assembling supplies, and putting the kits together.



Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement here, we appreciate their patronage!
Thank you to the Cherry Valley Village Hall for their continued support and assistance.

Feel free to drop a line, add some content, share some stories to the Historical Society’s e-mail
(cvhs.1899@gmail.com)
or mail to Cherry Valley Historical Society, Box 266, Cherry Valley, IL 61016



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 *Cherry Valley Mens Club* 
 Serving the Cherry Valley Area

Cherry Valley Men's Club is a 501 C3 non-profit organization Fed Tax # 90-0674903

See back for membership information -



Cherry Valley Historical Society

101 E State Street, P.O Box 266, Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Dear Members of the Cherry Valley Historical Society,

This is a reminder that membership for the year 2023 is due the first of the year. We hope that you will remain a part of this organization with your paid membership. Without you, we couldn't continue to work to preserve the history of Cherry Valley.

Please return the bottom portion to:

Cherry Valley Historical Society
101 East State Street
POI Box 266
Cherry Valley, IL 61016

Individual / Annual membership (\$10.00 per person) \$ _____

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Thank you so much for maintaining your membership for the 2023 year. It is greatly appreciated!
Any questions: email us at cvhs.1899@gmail.com or call 815 621 7262.