

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SPRING 2006

One of our members, Bob Wilson, has been recently diagnosed with lung cancer. He also has cancerous polyps on his pharynx. If you would call him, send an E mail, or a card, I know he would appreciate it. Pee Wee Hollembeak is getting along very well.

The recipe book is coming along quite slowly. We found that we need many more recipes than we thought we would need in the beginning. Please bear with us. We have recently had Office Max copy ten more of our "Our Memories Are Warm" books. We are selling them for \$50 each. Some folks purchased them last year for Christmas gifts.

We are planning a spring trip in May. The details will be worked out at our April meeting. At our March meeting, Bruce Steder, Jr., the president of the Rockford Historical Society, joined our society. He is impressed with our museum. We are pleased about him joining and also his compliment. If you haven't paid your dues for 2006 (due last January), we would appreciate receiving it. I don't send out notices anymore, as the postage counts up too fast.

Marilyn West and Sandy Baxter recently filled two glassed-in shelves at the Cherry Valley Library with artifacts from our museum. These will be on display for the month of March. We appreciate their time and efforts. The display looks very nice. Cherry Valley will have a village-wide rummage sale the third weekend in May. We will also participate, as well as have the museum open. There will be another potluck and ice cream social in July.

The following former Cherry Valley residents have died since the last newsletter: Leola (Wilson) Winkler, 85, December 26, 2005, and Betty (Walker) (Mrs. Floyd) Meyers, 74, February 2006.

In 1919 William Clarence Oberg was discharged from the army at Camp Grant in Rockford, IL when WW1 ended. He was one of 500 cooks. Then he bought the confectionery business and a pool hall from Len Johnson and Charlie Swatek in Cherry Valley, IL. At first the business was called the Cricket. Later on, it was the Busy Bee. Kathryn Chesak went to work for William. They married in September, 1926. They were my parents.

During WW2 the menu read: oyster stew 35 cents, ham and egg sandwich 15 cents, chili con carne 20 cents, pie 10 cents per slice, sundaes with fruit 15 cents, phosphates 5 cents, near beer 10 and 15 cents, etc. We have a copy of this menu above one of the original booths from the confectionery's ice cream parlor in our museum. Do you remember the 5 cent a dip real ice cream cones, 5 cent (six ounce) bottles of pop, 5 cent candy bars, 10 cent comic books, 15 and 20 cent a package of cigarettes, and on and on? It was a special time growing up in the 1930's and 1940's in our little village of 600.

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