

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

We Need Your Stories!

Your tales are the heart of the newsletter, so dust off your photo album and share some memories with us. Perhaps tell us about the house that came to represent home for you. Was Cherry Valley where you grew up, or the place you chose to raise your family? We'd love to share your warmest memories!



The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Gail Mona Droessler	77	Feb 2015
Brent S. Baxter	66	Mar. 2015
Melvin Dewayne Small	79	Mar. 2015
Donald O. Neffenegger	63	Mar. 2015
Eilene Ann Ruppert Scheff	91	Apr. 2015
Janet L. Mitchell	84	Apr. 2015



The Mounds

I received a lovely note from Bev Culver Nelson in which she made mention of the 'Mounds'. Now, I'd never heard of it before, drove out that direction and saw NOTHING, and brought it up at the next HS meeting. It got everyone chatting and sharing some memories, trying to explain to me what/where it was, and where did it go? I hope it also stirs a memory for you, or you learn something new about Cherry Valley.

From Bev Culver Nelson (East 1957)

The newsletter reminded me of my days going to The Mounds.....I am sure many people went there and had a great time. I can remember going there with my boyfriend Kenny Yunek, who has since passed away. I recall playing kissey face also....we used to ride our bikes, and sometimes Dick Sorenson would pick up Gwen Engstrom, Kenny, and I to go there and just hang out...those were the good ole days.

It was this huge field, probably two or three acres, with a big gully, just beautiful! Barb Anderson is one of my best friends...that was our 'boy kissing territory' at the Mounds...(smile). Of course never anything more during those times, except for sneaking out. My grandparents (next door to Anderson's) were hard of hearing. You have no idea how many times I snuck out and often came home in the early morning. Going through corn fields and playing hide and seek with a group of kids was tons of fun. Thought this may remind others of our countryside and how much fun we all had during our childhood. The ONLY thing we all did which was the worst, was smoke a cigarette....isn't that interesting...that was just terrible then? Not compared to today!

From Lyle Wilt

The "mound" was located at the corner of River Road and Genoa Road. At one time it was the highest point in Winnebago County. They blasted away at it for the gravel. When the cement plant operated in the Valley, that's where they got all the stone for the concrete. One of the later owners of the property graded what was left of the "mound" and leveled it for his backyard and pasture for his horses. No one would have a clue that there was ever something like that there now.

From Patty Wanke Campbell and Rickard Wanke

I remember along with my brother Dick, when we were 10 and 11 years old, we were excited about the coming winter snow. At that age I'm sure our mother would never have approved of our going to the mound so far from home. It is probably ½ to 1 mile from where our house was. It doesn't seem so far now, but then it was a long journey. Whoever had sleds or big pieces of cardboard went with us. Dick and I never had sleds that I remember, but if there was one sled or cardboard, we were very lucky. We all shared. Whoever could or would go to the mound all walked together. Most of us had no gloves, boots or (goulashes) as they were called then. By the time we finally got there we were already cold, but excited about having fun on this enormous hill! It seemed like a mountain to us. We would play most of the day, and come home at dusk for supper. I remember my brother Dick and Harry pulling me home on someone's sled once, because I couldn't walk from being so cold and wet. I thought my feet and hands were frozen and going to fall off.

Dick remembers getting a large piece of roofing tin that was in the alley behind our and Roy Buck's home. Roy helped Dick bend the tin with his old truck to make a sled. He put bolts and a chain in one end to pull it with. Dick said Roy (a homeowner on Van Buren) pulled him and the homemade sled to the mound so we would all have a sled to ride on. Dick also remembered our other brother Roe getting a barrel and taking a couple slats from it to make skis. Since they were curved, he believed they would work. He made some kind of straps, probably from old rags, to hold them onto his feet. Dick was sure Roe would start down the hill and fall after a couple feet. He tried over and over, but couldn't get them to work. The kids thought it was very funny as everyone gave it a try. The year was about 1941 or 42. Roe would have been about 16, before he went off to war. What wonderful winter memories of the mound!

Written by Patty Do and Dickie Do --

Those were our nicknames given to us by our family back in those days.

The Standard Oil Station



My dad Harold Yunek ran the Standard Oil Station for a number of years from the mid 1940s on. Bob Wilt would help us out a lot when dad would be gone as did Grand Winkleman. Always liked it when Bob was there, I looked up to him a lot. I believe Dad purchased the Station in 1945 and maybe

sold it in the early 50s. He bought it from Homer Green and sold it to Bob Wilt. This photo was taken during those years that Dad had the station. We moved to Sycamore, Ill in the fall of 1952.

The house we lived in was on N. Van Buren. It was built by Dr. Charles Klontz. It must have been a pretty old because it had gas lines throughout the house for gas lanterns for lighting. Also the woodwork was so beautiful and put in place by screws. And of course a privy out in the back yard near Donna and Jesse Robert's garage. They came out from Garrett Seminary in Chicago to pastor our Methodist church.

There was a stoop at the street for getting on a horse or into a buggy, along with a hitching post. This is a picture of my sister Carolyn standing next to the hitching post. Charley Culver's home is in the back ground. I remember so well when there was a Father Son banquet at the Methodist church, one time Joe Bennett took me as his son. My dad always had to be at the station. I was so excited to go and it has stayed with me all these years

Blessings now, Bill Yunek



Joey and the Big Magical Book

Mrs. Julie Johnson's 5th grade class at Cherry Valley School has written a play. It is about the 'magical history' of Cherry Valley based on historical facts they've learned this year. In addition several of our historical society members went to the school and shared historical events/stories with them. Check out the wonderful projects celebrating Pride Day before the play in room 104 starting at 11:00.

The Cherry Valley School Fifth Grade class extends an open invitation to the public to attend their play:

May 26, Tuesday

12:30 PM

Cherry Valley School gymnasium



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

And to CV Methodist Women group for their sponsorship.

Please let our sponsors know you saw their advertisement in the newsletter, we appreciate them!

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H h h h h h

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.historical86@frontier.com)

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

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

Cherry Valley Area Men's Club

What has Cherry Valley Men's Association done for the Cherry Valley community?

1. Petitioned and got the speed limit reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph at Mill and Harrison
2. Established the Robert Larson Foundation, to help CV area students with college or technical education
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 & 5th CV grade spirit squad
5. CVAMA members assist with a yearly clothing, food and paper shredding drive at city hall.
6. Donated and helped raise funds for 65 uniforms for the Goldie B. Floberg special athletes. Travel bags, jackets jerseys & shorts.
7. CVAMA worked the the Winn. County Forrest Preserve to design, produce and install rules of the river signs at [6] Winn. forrest preserves
8. CVAMA made 20 "Love your River" signs and are along the Kishwaukee River.
9. Donated to the CV Merchants youth baseball team uniforms.
10. Donated to Christmas lights and installed lights [Dave Doig in 2011 & 2012]
11. Donated 600 frisbees to the 2012, 2013 & 2014 4th of July parade
12. Coordinated and got the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile to come to the 2012 4th of July parade
13. Sponsored numerous CV 4th& 5th grade school basketball players to coaches clinics held for youth basketball
14. Designed, produced and printed [1,000] 2015 Cherry Valley Calendars.
15. CVAMA annually sponsors Family Night Ice Skating at the Carlson Ice Arena.
16. CVAMA is having their first golf outing September 14th at Newburg Hills.
17. CVAMA hosted & mediated a political debate at the Methodist church, open to the public to meet the candidates.

**To Join or to get more information
visit our web site cherryvalleyama.com**

Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of the month at Salamone's at 7 p.m.




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