

### **Friends we have lost:**

Judi Prinidiville April 4, 1943 – March 22, 2023 (79 y/o)

Edwin “Eddie” D. Ellison March 28, 1936 - March 1, 2023 (86 y/o)

Chanh Hokoth March 12, 1936 - February 28, 2023 (86 y/o)

Billie R. O’Donnell November 26, 1951 - March 8, 2023 (72 y/o) Daughter of Lois and Pat. Classmate and friend.

Larry L. Clevenger August 27, 1938 - January 24, 2023 (84 y/o)

Dale Muyskens August 19, 1949 - March 1, 2022 (74 y/o) Married to Pat Sheldon. Great personal friend.

### **A note from John Robbins:**

The ball diamond still has some activity with slow pitch baseball leagues from my last observation, but what I remember was fast pitch and the home of the ROCKFORD ARVEYs and arch rivals the ARORA SEAL MASTERS. It was an event that filled the bleachers to capacity and folks brought chairs or sat on the railroad embankment plus they watched from the main street benches. My grandfather was a regular with many of his friends from that choice location.

Our family would walk down to the field together sometimes in the early evening. I remember holding my father’s hand going down the main street when I was younger and later riding a bicycle. You could not find a parking spot hardly anywhere in downtown if you drove a car. Kids without parents had to leave when the 9 o’clock whistle blew for curfew if your parents were not present.

The crowd smelled of cigarettes and cigars mixed with popcorn, hotdogs, hamburgers and beer from the concession stand. A foul ball was a kid’s dream because if you returned one you got a 50 cent reward. Competition to retrieve one was fierce and often disputed and sometimes a bit violent or dangerous because Highway US 20 came straight down through town. Making your way back to the booth behind home plate was equally adventurous with villains who would sometimes try to take the ball from you. Such activities as these were grand fun and the spoils of victory earned you a soda and popcorn at the concession with the plunders.

Later when I was playing hardball, we also filled the bleachers with **Mr. Bob Murphy** at the helm as coach. Especially, when the Argile boys joined up with us with Dale Greenlee (Kansas all state basketball player), and the usual CV boy’s – **Scott Hiedel, David and Malcom Doig, Brian Baxter, Marty and John Nystrom, Dirk Mitchel, Dave and Steve Solverson and a host of others.**

It was all magical and filled with memorable moments never to be lost to my memory.

John Robbins (Thank you John for these wonderful memories).



Carrie Meyers (daughter of Ann and Norm) donated this old flower flatbed wheelbarrow that was used for many years at Enders Greenhouse. Her grandparents (Karl and Anne Enders) started the greenhouse in 1912. The original greenhouse was on Hogan Street (behind Doigs) for three years. They then built the existing facility. Around the same time they built the cement block house on the corner of Lawrence St. and State. Later Anne's uncle, Howard Enders took the greenhouse over, but it had to close during WWII. Anne bought it from her aunt in 1972. During their ownership, they had a truck garden and took vegetables and cut flowers to the Shumway Market in Rockford (there is a nice picture of the truck at the CV Public Library site). Becky Baeverstad (one of Anne's daughters) ran Enders Flowers in Edgebrook Center in Rockford. They shared in business with plants and cut flowers. Ann sold the greenhouse in 2003 to Shannon Neuendorf and she ran it for 2 years. John Falzone then purchased the greenhouse and ran it as Cherry Valley Garden Center (specializing in many type of tomatoes). In 2020 John sold the business to Amy and John Randolph and they are currently running a thriving business. Much of this information

was taken from the June 2008 CV Historical Society Newsletter. More information can be found in "Our Memories are Warm 1976". This book can be purchased at the CV Historical Society.



Members of the Historical Society gave out easter candies before and after the kids visited Mr. and Mrs. Bunny. A grand prize mug was given to the first person who mentioned they saw the Historical Society facebook note. 200 chocolate bunnies and other goodies were distributed with the note: **"Do you have roots in Cherry Valley – Let the CV Historical Society – Help you find them".**

## **Did you know:**

Rumor has it that the first indoor toilet was at 302 Grove Street (corner of Cherry and Grove).

You will soon notice changes at Mill Road and 20. Some of the changes will involve the CV Cemetery – roads and traffic patterns will be changing. With all this construction going on, please consider joining the “clean-up crew” to help keep our cemetery beautiful. Call Donna at 815 742 0186.

The 9 PM and noon whistle/siren (as mentioned in Mr. Robbin’s baseball write-up) is being renovated by Tom Larson at Youngberg Industries. We thank them for their help.

\*\*\*\*\*

Every person who has lived in (or currently lives in) Cherry Valley – either a short time or a very long time – has made an impact on many lives. Here are some of those people who many of us currently know, many of us knew and may have changed your life or the lives of many other CherryValleyites.

Bill Fisher -self entrepreneur and lifelong friend to so many in Cherry Valley and helped many with providing flights to medical facilities to those in need.

Jill Hollembeak – Power champion and coach and is currently at DePaul University.

Mo Pitney – Singer/song writer. Has played at the grand ole opry – **He will be playing at OSD July 18, 2023. Let’s get Cherry Valley out to see his performance.**

Richard Burton – lived on East Street (son of Alice Burton) – became an actor and director.

Remind us of the many others. Let’s keep adding to our **WALL of CHERRYVALLEYITES** – each newsletter.

### **THE MYSTERY OF ROBINSON’S POND – was it really a monster?**

(brought back by popular demand from the July 2014 newsletter)

These are some of the descriptions CV residents shared in 1885,

- \*Length was anywhere from 10 feet long to 100 feet long.
- \*Sounded like a hippopotamus with a gurgling roar.
- \*Was dark green color on top and had a bright yellow belly.
- \*Had a two foot long fin on the head.
- \*Was seen in Robinson’s pond, south side of Genoa St. at East street.

**THIS IS A MUST READ CHERRY VALLEY STORY. IT WILL KEEP YOU ON THE EDGE OF YOUR SEAT.**

**TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED LEADING UP TO THE DISCOVERY OF THIS MYSTERY – GO TO:**

**Cherry Valley Public Library.....Click on Research..... Click on Cherry Valley Historical Society.....**

**Click on CV Historical Society Newsletters and historical documents**

**GET ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY READING THE ARTICLES SUBMITTED BY SAM KNIGHTON.**

**A note from the CV Historical Society president:**

We are approaching May and the committee has been discussing having an open house. “Cherry Blossom day” in the future.

Members are working on projects: Pat Stegemann submitted a list to the members asking for suggestions for upcoming newsletters and has taken on the responsibility of drafting and coordinating the newsletters.

We are also seeking New Members and Sponsors.

We have newly designed mugs and t-shirts for sale. They make great gifts.

The members held the annual elections as follows: President – Nancy Belt. Vice President – Donna Riha. Treasurer – Melynda Mungor. Secretary – Nancy Belt.

The CV Public Works Department is working on the Log Cabin floor. When they finish, we will clean and decorate. Melynda Mungor purchased the material to make the window valances.

Sincerely, President, Nancy L Belt

[




Cherry Valley Creamery. Two men making cheese in the CV Creamery. Photo undated.

Circa 1900-1910

Photo from the Cherry Valley Public Library. Copyright 2002 CV Historical Society in cooperation with CV Public library.



**PLEASE LET OUR SPONSORS KNOW THAT WE APPRECIATE THEM!!**



**A Place for Space**  
815 874-7552 *Making Self Storage easy*

**Rockford**  
5112 Linden Rd.  
1619 Meridian Rd.  
3722 Baxter Rd.  
5315 Sandy Hollow Rd. [aplaceforspace.com](http://aplaceforspace.com)

**Belvidere**  
1821 Chrysler Dr.

**24/7 Self Rental/Payment Station  
at all Locations**



**Rawson**  
*Custom Woodworks LLC*

ph (815) 332-9222  
[info@RawsonCustomWoodworks.com](mailto:info@RawsonCustomWoodworks.com)  
follow us on Facebook & Instagram  
Cherry Valley, IL 61016



815-332-2103  
7295 Harrison Ave.  
Rockford, IL 61112  
[www.peppercreek.com](http://www.peppercreek.com)

*"A natural for plants, gifts, and flowers!"*



*Fitzgerald* SINCE 1914  
FUNERAL HOME  
& CREMATORY LTD.

Family Owned & Operated  
[www.fitzgeraldfh.com](http://www.fitzgeraldfh.com)



**Riverside Chapel**  
3910 N. Rockton Av  
(815) 654-2484



**Mulford Chapel**  
1866 S. Mulford Rd  
(815) 226-2273

Cherry Valley



Methodist Women

**SOSNOWSKI  
SZETO LLP**



Roxanne M. Sosnowski  
Partner  
[roxanne@sosnowskiszeto.com](mailto:roxanne@sosnowskiszeto.com)  
Main: 815.900.7272 | Direct: 815.900.2512 | Fax: 815.900.7444  
6735 Vistagreen Way, Suite 300 | Rockford, IL 61107

[www.SosnowskiSzeto.com](http://www.SosnowskiSzeto.com)



**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