

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
Summer 2016



“August hangs at the very top of summer, like the highest seat of a Ferris wheel when it pauses in its turning. The weeks that come before are only a climb from balmy spring, and those that follow a drop to the chill of autumn, but the first week of August is motionless, and hot. It is curiously silent, too, with blank white dawns and glaring noons, and sunsets smeared with too much color.”

— Natalie Babbitt, Tuck Everlasting



The following have passed away since our last newsletter:

Mary A. Lofquist 76 July 2016



Memories shared from Jan (Purvis) Bentley

As I recall from Mom, Joan (Knox) Ronk, they moved to Cherry Valley when she was about 9 years old~1929. Grandpa Knox was in the feed and produce business. Some of the land where the log cabin is now (across from the library) was used for growing the vegetables. They also had a hatchery- mom never did like eggs as a result! Grandpa started the trucking business, with one truck. Grandma Knox would stay up late to check drivers in. Mom was sent to the Cherry Valley Bank with deposits down the ‘back way’ on Elgin St. Grandpa also raised dogs for a time. His trucking business eventually grew to include many trucks and three terminals. It became Knox Interstate Motor Service.

Mom told of childhood pranks “stealing” corn and watermelon from Thornton Bauman, and him shooting a shotgun in the air. Supposedly she helped put a buggy up on a roof one Halloween, and fondly remembered being allowed to ring the school bell for the days start.

In the big white house, which later became a nursing home, there was a fire when she was growing up. She recalled the firemen throwing her cedar chest out the window, and one volunteer named Robinson stopping to read the Declaration of Independence as he was fighting the fire. They must have done a good job, as the house survived. Mom, along with her brothers, Vince and Wendell were active in sports. Mom told of the boys playing basketball up in Oberg Hall and having to shoot through the rafters. I remember the Hall as a good place for Boy Scout potluck dinners.

Mom was active in the Methodist Church Choir and Women’s Circle. She worked on the Community Chest and helped get the park started in Cherry Valley. Grandpa and Grandma Knox watched the softball games all summer from their car parked by the now Historical Society Building. The teams from Rockford were very good. Though we lived outside of town, we frequently came in to play or stay with friends. The soda fountain, gas station, barber shop, hardware store, and the ball games were also regular stops. I remember going trick or treating all over town with friends and no adults. Everyone knew everyone, and looked out after one another. I still call Cherry Valley my “hometown” and enjoy walking in the park when we are in town visiting. I fondly remember Cherry Valley as a great place to grow up in more innocent times (or at least we thought they were).



Antique Spinning Wheel

Vintage dress with 2 petticoats

Both items donated by Joan (Knox) Ronk. The dress belonged to her Aunt Florence Vincent. Joan's father purchased the little spinning wheel at Carson McFaul's auction in Cherry Valley. ca. 1900-1910



Bauman Park –Then and Now



Bauman Park opened in the middle 70's. Leonard Lund and Don Baxter built the large gazebo. Later a second gazebo was donated by Joan Ronk. The land was: a pasture, a bog, a sewer plant, and a baseball diamond (in the teens and twenties). It was originally owned by Thorton Bauman, who ran both a vegetable and a dairy farm, and also raised hogs.
from Historian John Larson

https://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g35801-d5768

Baumann Park & Lake (...)

"The jewel of a small town"

★★★★★ Reviewed January 17, 2016

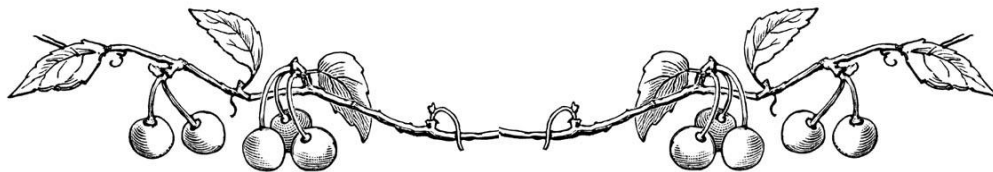
This park has something for every interest! You can fish, launch a canoe, play soccer, walk/bike/skate on a paved path around a well maintained lake, bird watch, geocache (currently, 3 caches in place), it has a nice playground, tennis courts, gazebos, restrooms...oh and a baseball diamond! The people of Cherry Valley have every reason to be proud of this jewel, and I promise you'll enjoy your visit too.



The first photo was taken while the lake was under construction by Lyle wilt, when he was enjoying his pilot's license. The 2nd photo and the little "Jewel of a small town" article were found on the internet on TripAdvisor.com. The park is enjoyed not just by the people of Cherry Valley, but the surrounding areas as well. There is always someone casting a line to see what's biting that day, and people strolling around the lake. From the beautiful views, to the 4th of July fireworks it really is one of the Valley's most sparkling features. It is almost time for the Annual Cherry Valley Festival days down in the park. August 26-28 the park will be a Mecca for fun, food and games. Whether it's the music, the nickel scramble, the muddy money pit, or the carnival area, there is something for everyone to enjoy in the Valley's end of summer celebration. This will be the 28th year for the festival which fills Bauman Park to the brim with 3 days of food and activities. So what's your favorite 'fair food'?



We'd like to express our appreciation to John Falzone at Cherry Valley Garden Center for donating the lovely flowers in front of the Historical Museum this year. Frank Horn and his grandson got them all planted and mulched. They look beautiful!



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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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!