



HOMER CUB SCOUTS

March 18 at the Homer Grade School was the annual running of the Pinewood Derby. Each Cub Scout had been given a kit containing a block of wood, four wheels and four axles to be made into a race car no longer than six inches and no heavier than five ounces. The Cub Scout, with the help of family members, carved, painted and decorated his car. The cars raced, two at a time, down a wooden twenty-five foot long, two lane track which is inclined four feet at the start. The competition continued until the winners were determined. Prizes were also awarded for appearance, or Show. On April 30, eight winners from Pack 42 will go on to competition at Market Place Mall, entering in either Race or Show, but not both.

The Boy Scout troop helped to run the Derby. They, along with any other people who desire to do so, may participate in the open class. However, only the Cub Scouts are eligible to win prizes, and to go on to the competition at

Market Place Mall.

The Homer Cub Scouts are sponsored by the Homer Churches Cooperating. Jack Knoop is the Cubmaster over all the Cub Scout dens. The four dens meet weekly throughout the school year at the United Methodist Church, usually on Tuesdays, at various times. The Tiger den consists of two first grade boys, with their

parents as Adult Partners and John Kammin as Tiger Coach. The Wolf den of second graders has thirteen boys with John Kammin as leader, assisted by Pam Kammin and Angela Doggett. The eight boys of the third grade Bears are led by Jamie Bryan and assisted by Dick Moore and Mark McLain. Linda Mayes leads the fourth and fifth grade Webelos, with ten boys.

Once a month, all dens meet together, usually on Tuesdays, and usually at the church. They have also held pack meetings at the Homer Fire Department, the Homer Historical Society and other locations. Family members attend along with their boys; awards are given out and news of upcoming events are shared.

The boys pay only \$7 per year, which goes to the national organization in Texas for insurance for the scouts and leaders. Local fund raisers cover the cost of the badges and awards the scouts earn and the Pinewood Derby kits. The local council, located in Champaign, is funded by the United Way.

(Continued on page 4)



Pack 42 — (L to R) Back Row: Drew Negangard, Aleks Chan, Luke Finley, Kyle McClain. Front Row: Chase Bryan, Brandon Moore.

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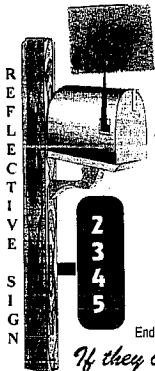
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HOMER News & Views



Homer News & Views is YOUR newsletter. Its content and value depend upon each resident of the community. We are depending upon you for the content of this newsletter. What this newsletter becomes is up to each of you. We need your help! If you have anything you would like to contribute, please drop it off at the Homer IGA or mail to the HCDB, P.O. Box 74, Homer, IL 61849.

Photography by James Alred.
Typesetting & Design by Andrew Shreeves.

NOTICE: This newsletter is published by the Homer CDB to report items of interest to the citizens of Homer. The information included is intended to be accurate, but should not be relied upon for legal or official purposes.

HOMER



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FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

— by Naomi Roberts

Chris' Lawn Service

When Chris' Lawn Service began, it was a Mom and Pop business operated by Chris and Jackie Sturdyvin. In the beginning, both of their fathers and a brother helped them. Although Chris and Jackie are still the driving force behind the fifteen year old business, they now have fifteen employees.

Along with these employees comes much equipment: four trucks, three trailers, plus a dump trailer, and four to five mowers on each trailer. The cost of the equipment runs into several thousand dollars, yet people still have the misconception that a lawn care service is not a business. They still try to equate it to a neighborhood teenager mowing their lawn for ten bucks.

Although seventy-five percent of the work Chris' Lawn Service does is mowing grass, that isn't all they do. They also offer landscaping improvements to their customers. This involves such things as planting flowers and trees, sod work, setting a flag pole, cutting down trees and shrubs, or special requests such as fish ponds. The landscaping part of the business brings a smile and a little sparkle to Chris' eyes, because he likes the challenge of making a yard or business grounds more aesthetically pleasing. He finds it fun, because the challenge is always new and different, and there is nothing better than the feeling of accomplishment upon completion of the work.

Chris is always busy. Staying busy is something his father instilled in him

years ago by constantly telling him to "find something to do." Even in the off-season, Chris stays busy by keeping abreast of any new changes in the lawn care business that will help him to serve his customers better. Chris' most recent change in the business is the addition of lawn fertilization. This is an area that is highly regulated

by the government and Chris and his men must be licensed before they can apply the chemicals. They must go to classes before they can receive their license, but this isn't a hindrance to Chris. Each year they attend a trade show seminar in Kentucky on turf building and anticipated problems for the coming season. They also attend seminars at the University of Illinois on seeds and grasses. Chris believes in knowing all you can about the service you provide to your customers.

Knowing all you can also helps Chris with overhead. He continually trains his men in small engine repair and maintenance. Downtime is costly, so every small repair he or his men can make adds productivity and profit. For larger repairs, he does business locally. Although most of his business is located in and around Champaign, he is a hometown boy who does most of his business in the Homer



Jackie & Chris Sturdyvin, with daughter Teri.

area. He buys his mowers from Allerton Implements, small items from White's Ace Hardware, his trimmers from Karlau & Son, and all his fuel from Happ's Marathon, and of course all his pizza at Dave's Pizza. He likes giving back to the community where he resides. He treats his customers in this manner too. It is more than just a business relationship. The customers come to rely on Chris so much that some even ask him to keep watch over their property while they are on vacation.

Besides the lawn service, Chris also runs to Snowblowers. This is his winter business, and some of his customers are the same people he has in his lawn care service. In the winter of course, he is maintaining their driveways and walk areas.

Chris can be reached at 896-2225. Remember he is tremendously busy, so leave a message. He will return your call. ■

Homer Cub Scouts (cont'd from page 1)

In addition to the regular meetings, boys can participate in activities sponsored by the District, such as day camps, Camp Drake and fun days. In the fall they rake leaves at the Methodist church. They raise funds through the fall popcorn sale, the spring chocolate candy bar sale, and the sale of refreshments at the Pinewood Derby. This past year, they also sold corn on the cob on the Fourth of July and caramel apples at Homer Odyssey II.

Cub Scouts can earn badges in many ways. The Tigers earn iron-on paw prints as they learn about helping their community and families. The other three dens earn badges in many areas, such as bicycle safety, foods and nutrition, travel, swimming and first aid. They also can earn belt loops for activities they participate in at school, such as music and sports.

The Homer Cub Scouts participated in a special program called God and Me (for the first through third graders) and God and Family (for the fourth and fifth graders). Boys attended the program at either the Methodist church where it was led by pastor Steve Burwell, or at the Church of Christ where it was led by pastor David Burns. They earned a special medal for participation, and did a service project by visiting shut-ins.

Training for leaders is available through the District in Champaign, including a monthly District RoundTable. Homer's Cub Scout leaders give generously of their time to provide fun and constructive activities and training for young boys. Anyone interested in local Cub Scouts should contact one of the leaders mentioned above. ■

MARQUEE SIGN KEEPERS

If you have a message to post on the Homer Lions Club Marquee for events, please telephone the Lions Members listed below with the information. If the listed persons responsible for posting and removal of messages during the month shown are unavailable, please contact K.C. Jones, sign chairman, at 896-2763.

— APRIL, 2000 —

Norman Miller 896-2340
 D. Wolf 896-2253

— MAY, 2000 —

P. Dziuk 896-2058
 M. Wienke 896-2034

HOMER LIBRARY NEWS

Ariel Compton has been hired as our new assistant librarian. She is on duty Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings and every other Saturday.

Tax forms will be on display in the library until late April, at which time they will be put in storage. We do keep tax forms for one year. CD-ROMs with tax forms on them will be available indefinitely.

The library is open from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. each weekday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. Materials other than videos may be returned in the drop box in the front wall of the building. Videos must be brought inside. Our phone number is 896-2121 and if we are not in, you may leave a message on our answering machine. Materials may be renewed by phone.

Chris' Quick Pick: *The Cat Who Robbed a Bank* by Lilian Jackson Braun. LJB is back again with another Cat Who book. Fans will enjoy the antics of Ko-Ko, the crime solving cat, and his companion Yum-Yum, as well as the colorful characters who populate Ms. Braun's newest book. Who strangled the jeweler and made off with his assistant and all the money, leaving the jewels behind? Read the book! ■

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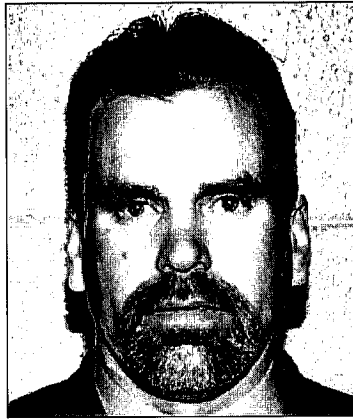
SALUTING HOMER'S VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

— An Ongoing Series —



TOM COTTRELL is employed by Orkin Pest Control, and has lived in Homer for 6 years with his wife Shelly, daughter Stephanie, age 12, and son Jeremy, 18-months. He is a 4-year veteran of Eastern Prairie Fire Department, and has served Homer Fire Department for 6 years. He has the rank of Training Officer and is a Firefighter II, EMT-B, and Homer Explorers Senior Advisor. He enjoys the closeness of the people of the community and their willingness to help each other. He feels serving on the department brings a feeling of accomplishment when you have performed a task to the best of your ability. Tom

enjoys playing basketball, softball, and playing with his children. ■



TOM WOLF lives 3 miles northwest of Homer with his wife Deana, and daughters Elyse, 6th grade, and Andrea, 3rd grade. In June, they will welcome a new member into the family. Tom has been a volunteer fireman for 11 years, and is a Lieutenant with the Department. He has special training as Firefighter and Medical First Responder. He likes being involved and helping serve the people and the community. He feels Homer is a small town with a big heart, and appreciates the community support of the Fire and

Rescue Department. He is employed by Wolf Farms, and enjoys music, farming and family activities. ■



SKIP JAMES, a 25-year resident of Homer, has been a volunteer fireman for 5 years. He has the rank of Safety Officer, and special training as EMT-B. He likes to be involved with the community and help people. Having grown up in Homer, Skip wants his children to experience the same kind of life, with a small school in a quiet community. He enjoys camping, hiking and biking with his wife Cyndi, daughter Chelsea, age 10, and son Zachary, age 6. ■

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FROM THE MAYOR'S FILES

— by Dave Lucas

TESTING OF SEPTIC SYSTEMS

The village board has been working on a comprehensive testing plan for the village for some time now and we feel we are ready to begin. This summer will start a process of testing every home in the village for illegal storm sewer hookups. Testing will be done by flushing dye into the system and monitoring the water flow downstream for traces of the dye. If dye is found, this will indicate an illegal hookup of a septic system to the village storm sewer system. If an illegal hookup is found the homeowner will have 30 days to develop a plan to disconnect from the storm sewer. This plan must include a quote and installation date from a licensed plumber. The homeowner will then have 60 days to effect repairs. We have developed a policy statement on procedure for testing that will be available at the village hall.

On a related matter, the village board is applying for a planning grant from the state of Illinois to study the best way to provide city-wide sanitary sewer system for the village. This has caused some to believe that the installation of a city-wide sewer system is eminent. This is not the case. The grant cycle will take at least 6 months and the study another 6 months. At that time we will make available the results of the study and determine if the question should be put to a referendum vote. Should the residents of Homer determine through referendum that they want city-wide sewer, applications for engineering grants would be made. After that, we would apply for construction grant money. Total length of

time from start to finish could be as long as ten years. It is my personal fear that the cost per household will be too high to pursue a city-wide sewer system. At a town hall meeting last year we talked with a gentleman from Rural Development. He gave us a figure of \$80 per household per month for sewer. In talking to our village engineers I have been told that the cost could be as high as 5 million dollars for the project.

I guess the bottom line is, if you are waiting for city sewer in the future to avoid disconnecting from the storm sewer now, the wait might be a long time.

TIF funds will not be available to pay for a city-wide sewer system until the 10th or 15th year of the district. Paying for subdivision infrastructure will be the focus of TIF funds in the early years. ■

WATER WATER EVERYWHERE . . .

It gives me great pleasure to report to you that the Water Line Project is complete! Two electrical starters for the pump motors, the last pieces of the project, were installed the week of March 6.

With this new supply of water, the EPA will allow the village to make new water connections for new homes and businesses. This is the first piece of the puzzle that is community development. In conjunction with the TIF district, Homer is poised to grow like it did in the 40s and 50s. New families mean new children in school, which means more state money for the district.

Not to let grass grow under our feet, the board will begin the process of planning to build a new water tower

this year. A new, taller water tower will do two things. First, it will increase water pressure all over town, and it will help meet another EPA mandate to have at least one day's supply of water in storage. We will be applying for more grant money from the state and use proceeds from increased water sales to finance this project.

It is my goal to have and maintain one of the best municipal water systems in this area. As water becomes an increasingly scarce commodity, I want to keep water rates low while always improving the quality and quantity of water available to Homer residents. ■

TIF DISTRICT UPDATE

The village board is working on finalizing its redevelopment plan to be included in the TIF District. A redevelopment plan is essentially a list of projects that qualify to be financed with TIF funds. The priority of TIF will be the infrastructure for the new subdivisions. The Village Board will work with developers to build new roads, sidewalks, storm sewers, install water, electrical, and gas utilities, and other amenities with TIF money. This will lower the cost of the housing lots for new homeowners. It is our hope that these discounted lot prices will attract new people to Homer. As TIF revenue increases in the latter years of the district, other projects will be funded with that revenue. For the first 10 years, however, most of the money will go to new subdivisions. A complete list of projects and other information on the district will be presented at our public hearing, June 5. I encourage everyone to attend.

There still seem to be some basic questions and misconceptions on how a TIF District works. Let me give an example that might help you understand the process.

Let's say Mr. Bob has a home and last year paid property tax of \$100. This year his home is put into a TIF District. What happens to his property tax rate?

Nothing! He will still pay the same property tax regardless of being in or out of the district. The placement of his home in the district will have no effect on how much tax he pays. TIF only affects how his taxes are distributed among the various taxing bodies in the county. (School district, County Forest Preserve, Community College, County).

Let's say that next year Mr. Bob sees an increase in his taxes because of a multiplier of 5% to equalize assessments. He now pays \$105. Did his taxes go up because of the TIF district?

No! His taxes would have gone up anyway. It was the multiplier, not the TIF district, that caused the increase. The difference TIF makes comes into play with the distribution of the additional tax. The county taxing bodies will still divide the \$100 as before but the \$5 will go directly to a TIF fund, controlled by the village board. This fund will be used to pay for the redevelopment projects. The life of the district is 23 years.

Let's consider one more example. Because Mr. Bob's home is in the TIF district, he is eligible for low interest loans from the state administered through the village. So Mr. Bob decides to make some improvements on his house. He puts on a new roof, adds a new room, and a garage. These new additions increase the value of his home and as a result his property taxes increase. His new tax bill is \$125. Once again the county taxing bodies receive the \$100 and the village TIF funds gets the \$25.

I hope this helps clear up any misconceptions of how TIF works. If you have any questions on TIF (or any

project the village board is involved in), please come to one of our meetings and ask. We meet on the first and third Monday of every month. ■

NEW MEMBERS FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Since it's inception in 1995, the CDB has been learning about how to do "community development." They have made great strides in their understanding and their vision. They saw a need for a better communication between Village government and citizens so they began to produce a village newsletter. As they have learned, they have tackled small projects such

as downtown music, benches, trash containers, and hand railings.

Now it is time for brick and motor community development. With the TIF district well on its way to reality, the CDB needs new members to oversee the many new projects that will be implemented through TIF. Currently the CDB is in the process of writing the Development Plan that will take the Village 20 years down the road, and people of real vision are needed to write this document. If you are interested in this type of visionary work, and want to make a lasting contribution to your community, please call Greg Knott, or myself, David Lucas, and be a part of this adventure. ■

COMMEMORATIVE LICENSE PLATES

Special license plates to commemorate the fireworks and installation of new playground at Homer Park are being sold. The Homer Recreation Board held a design contest with the Heritage Junior and Senior High School students. A design by Andrea Henson, a student at Heritage High School, was chosen as the winner to appear on these special plates.



The Recreation Board is now taking orders for these plates. The cost will be \$30 per set with net proceeds to go towards the improvements at Homer Park. These plates will be issued by the Illinois Secretary of State during the first week of May and will be good for 60 days.

Quantities are very limited and will be sold on a first come/first serve basis. If you would like to reserve your set of these plates, please contact Greg Knott at 896-2348 or complete the order form below and send to: Greg Knott, 106 W 1st Street, Homer IL 61849

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____

You will be contacted when the plates arrive for pick-up at the Village Hall (We are shooting for Saturday May 6th). The Secretary of State requires us to obtain a copy of your automobile owner's registration card when the plates are picked up. ■

HOMER CHURCH NEWS

— From the Presbyterians —

HEAVEN & EARTH

What if . . .

- ... God couldn't take the time to bless us today because we couldn't take the time to thank Him yesterday.
- ... God decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn't follow Him today.
- ... God didn't walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day.
- ... we never say another flower bloom because we grumbled when God sent the rain.
- ... God stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others.
- ... God took away the Bible tomorrow, because we would not read it today.
- ... God took away His message because we failed to listen to His messenger.
- ... God didn't send his only begotten Son because He wanted us to be prepared to pay the price of sin.
- ... the door to the church was closed because we did not open the doors of our hearts.
- ... God would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him yesterday.
- ... God answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service.
- ... God met our needs the way we give Him our lives.
- ... WE FAILED TO PASS THIS MESSAGE ON! ■

EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS IN APRIL

- April 16** Palm Sunday. Giving of palms . . . we greet the Christ Who comes in the name of the Lord.
- April 20** Maundy Thursday. Holy Communion. The Methodists will be worshipping with us.
- April 21** Community Good Friday service at the Presbyterian Church, 7:00 p.m.
- April 23** Resurrection Celebration, 6:30 a.m. "Cheap Wine". Sunrise breakfast served by the Presbyterian men, 7:00 a.m. Free will offering. Surplus after expenses to the One Great Hour offering. Resurrection celebration worship service, 10:00 a.m.

HOMEMAKERS EXTENSION

The Homer Homemakers Extension Unit is midway through a busy year. At Craft Day on Nov. 12, the members made 44 Smile dolls and presented them to the Crisis Nursery in Champaign. Shirley Miller gave an interesting lesson on "Gifts from the Kitchen." On Dec. 17, a Christmas potluck at Pat Butler's new home was enjoyed by all. A gift exchange and visiting followed. The Unit also placed a decorated tree in the display at the City Building as part of the "Christmas at Home" celebration.

The January meeting was held at Elvira Wakefield's home, with the lesson being "The Red Plan — Rest, Exercise, Diet." In February, the Unit met at Dave's Restaurant. Norma Vineyard gave the lesson on "Healthy Indoor Air for the Home." Mary Ann Rohl hosted an International Luncheon March 17, when members brought foods pertaining to the country of Iceland. Marilyn Collins gave a lesson on a timely subject, "Grandparents Raising Grandchildren."

With spring on the way, "Container Gardening" will be featured at the April 21 meeting at Pat Varvel's, and in May members will again be planting flowers in the planters on Main Street.

The Unit welcomed Bonnie Compton as a new member in February, and extend an invitation to anyone who would like to attend any of our meetings. Contact Mary Ann Rohl, 896-2270, or Virginia Baird, 896-2207, or any member. Lessons are prepared by the University of Illinois Extension, and are open to all. ■

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HOMER FIRE EXPLORERS

Many young children dream of becoming fire fighters, and especially of driving the big red firetruck. Some local teenagers are closer to that dream, thanks to a new youth organization. Begun in Nov., 1999, with three members, the Homer Fire Explorers offers young people ages 14 to 20 the opportunity to learn about fire and emergency medical service and disaster relief.

Now with nine members, 7 guys and 2 women, the Fire Explorers receive the same training as regular fire fighters. They learn CPR and emergency medical and fire procedures. In fact, three-quarters of their training is hands-on. While members cannot participate in any action, they observe and help on the sidelines assisting in ways such as bringing drinking water. Their instructors set up scenarios, such as a recent session in the south fire station with a smoke machine borrowed from the Sidney department. With air packs on, participants learned basic search and rescue skills and received ladder training.

Homer fire fighters Tom Cottrell, Dave Reel and Aaron Lutz are the instructors. Tom oversees all functions of the Fire Explorers and does fire training. Dave Reel does medical training; and Aaron Lutz provides extra help as needed. These men are already busy people, working their regular jobs and putting in a lot of time training and serving as Homer fire fighters, but they see the need for this type of program and give generously of their time. They meet on the



Fire Explorers — (L to R) Seated: Adam Bear, David Reel, Tom Cottrell, Aaron Lutz, Justin Cross. Standing: Justin Matthew, Devin Miller, Caryn Wilson, Tiffany Mathis, Josh Rushing.



first and third Thursdays at 7 p.m. at the Homer fire station, and occasionally on Saturdays when there is an opportunity for special training.

Fire Explorers are loosely associated with the Boy Scouts of America, which pays for the insurance for the program and gives general guidelines. The leaders have received their training from the Homer department, and are responsible in turn for planning the training they give.

Leaders wear a uniform of white shirt, badges, and navy pants, while the young people wear blue shirts, badges and navy pants, purchased at a cost of \$10 per uniform. The participants also have bunker gear consisting of protective coat, pants, boots, helmets and gloves, all donated by the Rantoul, Ogden and Champaign fire departments. Young people pay a fee of \$20 per year to belong.

The Fire Explorer program receives no regular funding other than what the young people pay. Ongoing costs include the need for equipment and attending special events. Because the current bunker gear has been donated, not all consist of full sets. Any financial help would be appreciated.

This is only the second Fire Explorer program in all of Champaign County, the other being in Champaign, where several current fire fighters have received training. But now, Tom, Dave and Aaron offer the teenagers in Homer the opportunity to train locally and they encourage young people to come out and see what they do. ■

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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Homer Historical Society has been busy! We are about finished with giving the museum a new look. If you haven't been in for awhile, come in and look around. The museum is open every Thursday from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. There is talk of being open one other day also, so keep a watch for the notice.



This past year the museum has had visitors from at least 14 states spread from New Hampshire to Oregon and California, plus from Sweden, Belgium, and Germany. Everyone had good comments about their visit with us. One man and his wife came from Indiana looking for a possible family connection in this area. They were so impressed with our papers on the civil war they have been back and have even joined our society.

Deb Happ and her school connection committee have conducted tours through the museum for Cub Scout packs and Brownie troops and then has shown slides that show part of Homer's history, which the young people have found most interesting.

In December we held our annual trash and treasure auction and, after some very lively and quite serious bidding, we had brought in enough money that we were able to donate \$75 to the Homer Food Bank.

The Collection of photographs by John Tudor, a druggist in Homer 100+ years ago, is growing by the boxload. Mr. Everett Block from Sidney has just given us his collection of the glass plates and Mrs. Johnny Kuntz of Fithian has loaned our society some more of the plates she has — these

last we will copy and then give the original back to her. These are most generous people.

Nondus Wakefield and the archives committee have a box of old pictures of people and houses with no names. Could these people be your grandparents or maybe your great grandparents or their house? Come in to the museum and help to identify them. The pictures could even be of you as a baby!?

Do you have a picture of the Homer Community WWII Honor Roll? This was set up on N. Main St. between the old fire station and the present historical museum. We are in need of a picture from which the names can be read. We will return your original once we make a copy of it. Or do you know where the original honor roll is? If it is just taking up space in someone's barn it could be presented to the museum and everyone could appreciate it.

Anna Williams was a very active worker in starting up the Homer Historical Society and was the first president of the group. With her demise, the Homer Historical Society has designated the Anna Williams Memorial Fund to be used towards the publishing of an historical book about Homer. This book to be dedicated to Anna. If you are interested in donating to the Anna Williams Memorial Fund, please contact one of our co-presidents, Gene Happ or Marian Edwards. ■

FORWARD MOTION

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MAY 5-6, 2000

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Address: _____

Phone: _____ I will be participating: Friday Only Saturday Only Friday & Saturday

Applications are available at Homer businesses and returned to the Homer IGA. Late applications cannot be listed on the Garage Sale Map. A red balloon will be used to designate the Garage Sales that are in the Community Wide Sale. A little incentive has been added to get all residents to register for the sale and be a part of the community wide project. We will be offering four (4) \$25.00 winners to be drawn from the registration box. All participants must register and pay \$5.00 fee (submitted with application) which will be used for advertising and expenses. Your assigned # will automatically be entered in a drawing for (4) \$25.00 prizes. Deadline for applications is April 16, 2000. If you have any questions, call Bobbi Gordon at 896-2585.

HOMER HOUSEHOLD

Recipes submitted by Home Extension Members

MOCK CHICKEN CASSEROLE

— *submitted by Mary Ann Rohl*

2 lbs. ground beef 1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 cup dried celery 1 can cream of chicken soup
1 cup dried onion 1 cup cooked rice (maybe more)
1 chopped green pepper
2 small cans whole mushrooms (sliced)
1 cup slivered almonds (optional)

Brown beef, celery, onion, and pepper. Drain grease. Add remaining ingredients. Place in casserole. Bake at 350° for 1 hour. (Serves 8-10).

DIABETIC TROPICAL FRUIT BARS

— *submitted by Mary Ann Rohl*

2 large eggs 1 15-oz. can unsweetened
1 tsp. lemon juice crushed pineapple
1 cup coconut 1 T. vegetable oil
½ cup finely chopped dates ¾ cup chopped nuts
1¼ cup flour (unbleached) 1 tsp. soda
1 T. unsweetened orange juice concentrate

Beat together eggs, oil, orange juice and lemon juice. Add flour, soda, coconut, nuts and crushed pineapple including juice. Mix well. Spoon mixture evenly into oiled and floured 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with more chopped nuts, if desired. Bake at 350° for 15-20 minutes or until firm. Cool and cut into bars. (Serves 8-10).

ELEPHANT STEW

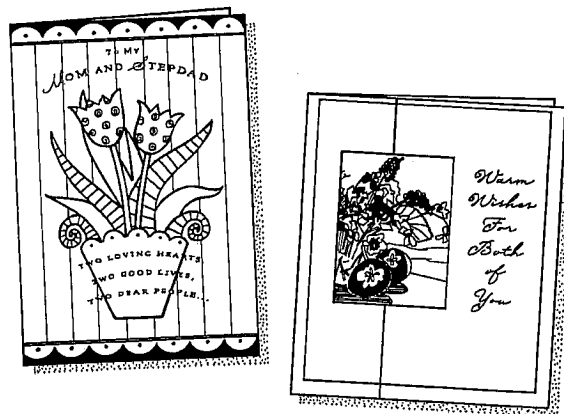
— *submitted by Lois Hockersmith*

1 elephant 5 lbs. potatoes
1 bunch celery 5 lbs. carrots
2 rabbits (optional)

Cut elephant into bite size pieces. Saute in 1 ton butter. This process takes 1-3 weeks, depending on size of elephant. In the meantime, eat the potatoes, carrots and celery. Put elephant in pot, add salt, pepper and garlic salt. Cover with water and cook over a kerosene fire at 470° for 8 days. (Serves 1,360 people. If more are expected, add the 2 rabbits. Do this only if necessary, as most people do not like hare in their stew. ■

From Northwest Christian Church Recipe Book, Champaign

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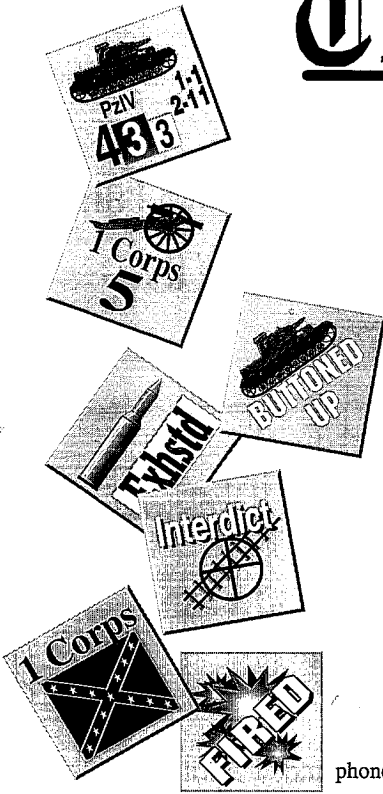
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