



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

— by Chris Reel —

An offshoot of the American Legion, the organization known as the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) is a relative newcomer to the Homer area. The national organization was established in 1932 in Portland, Oregon, and grew rapidly until 1939. World War II took many members of the Sons, as they enlisted or were drafted. After the war, men who might have been members were busy otherwise, pursuing an education on the GI Bill or raising a family. Some who were reservists were called back to duty during the Korean War. The SAL faltered until 1969, when the Legion decided to give it direction and stimulation. By 1973, the SAL was making a comeback.

The local SAL, Squadron 290 of Homer, Illinois, was chartered in 1996. The goals are to assist the American Legion, Post 290, and Legion Auxiliary, to keep the Spirit of Americanism alive, to assist the community and to carry on for God and Country.

Membership is open to all male descendants, adopted sons and stepsons of members of the American Legion, and male descendants of veterans who died in service during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War, Lebanon, Grenada, Panama and the Persian Gulf War, during the eligibility periods set forth in Article IV, Section I, of the National Constitution of the American Legion, or who died subsequent to their honorable discharge from such service. Members must also be of good character.

Squadron officers are named along military lines. In the absence of the Commander, the Senior or Junior Vice Commander fills in. The Squadron Advisor and Judge Advocate act as liaisons with the Legion. The Adjutant functions as secretary. Officers are as follows: Joe Hopper, Squadron Commander; Jim Lieb, Senior Vice Commander; Devon Webb, Junior Vice Commander; Chuck Buck, Squadron

Advisor; Stan Burton, Adjutant; Jim Fish, Finance Officer; Bill Buck, Past Commander and Sergeant at Arms; Matthew McDuffie, Chaplin; and Jack Burton, Judge Advocate.

Meetings are held at the Legion Post 290 on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Like every SAL squadron, the Homer SAL receives no government money. The members have held an annual Jerry's Kids Muscular Dystrophy Association Pork Chop Dinner/Bingo fundraiser on Labor Day. After paying expenses

for this increasingly successful event, all remaining monies are given to the MDA. SAL donates to the local food pantry and the Angel Tree project. Members have assisted the Legion Post 290 and the Auxiliary with New Year, Valentine's Day, Memorial Day services and other events. They donated to the Homer Youth League's new support area. The Sons plan to hold more Pancake and Sausage Breakfasts like the recent ones which have been so successful.

The members of the local SAL are using their talents and abilities for the betterment of Homer and the country. ■



Sons of the American Legion — (L to R) Devon Webb, Stan Burton, Jack Burton, Joe Hopper, and Matt McDuffie. (Not pictured) Chuck Buck and David Buck.

Photo by James Allied

BOARD MEMBERS

SOUTH HOMER TOWNSHIP BOARD

Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 202 S. Main St., Homer

- Don Morgan, Supervisor/Treas. . . 896-2197
- Katie Woodmansee, Clerk 896-2006
- Kenneth MacInnes, Trustee 896-2390
- Richard Freeman, Trustee
- Connie Messman, Trustee 896-2100
- Cheryl Baird, Trustee 896-2008
- Elbert Rogers,
Road Commissioner 896-2831

HOMER VILLAGE BOARD

Meets the 1st & 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

- Dave Lucas, Mayor 896-2618
- Cindy Pruitt, Treasurer 896-2114
- JoAnn Wallace, Village Clerk . . . 896-2193
- David Burns, Trustee 896-2797
- Joe Humphrey, Trustee 896-2597
- Mike Johnson, Trustee 896-2228
- Jim Lacey, Trustee 896-2365
- Orlena Pruitt, Trustee 896-2748
- Lauri Umbarger, Trustee 896-2067

HOMER CHURCHES COOPERATING BOARD

St. Charles, Church of Christ, Presbyterian, Methodist

- Rev. Steve Burwell, President . . 896-2551
- Jim Swathwood, Vice President . 896-2861
- Gene Ethridge, Treasurer 896-2286
- Joan Lane, Secretary 896-2717

HOMER ZONING BOARD

- Barb Gilhaus, President 896-2237
- Chuck Benner, Secretary 896-2516
- Don Glenn, Zoning Admin. 896-2776
- Ginny Dillon 896-2719
- Mike Flickinger 896-2815
- Gene Happ 896-2004
- Elizabeth Walton 896-2687

HOMER HOME EXTENSION BOARD

Meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in members' homes.

- Mary Ann Rohl, Co-Chair 896-2270
- Virginia Baird, Co-Chair 896-2207
- Shirley Miller, Vice Chair 896-2340
- Elvira Wakefield, Secretary 896-2153
- Lois Hockersmith, Treasurer 896-2553

HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall

- Greg Knott, President 896-2348
- Ray Cunningham, Secretary 896-2558
- Don Glenn, Treasurer 896-2776
- Becky Smith 896-2722
- Kevin Knott 896-3276
- Bobbi Gordon 896-2585

HOMER YOUTH LEAGUE BOARD

- Dale Katterhenry, President 896-2647
- Danny Gordon, Vice President . . 896-2585
- Stephanie Beamer, Secretary . . . 896-3800
- Cindy Pruitt, Treasurer 896-2114

Directors

- Cha Hodge, Athletics 896-3165
- Rickie Latham, Concessions 896-2088
- Kevin Sanderson, Equipment . . . 896-2372
- Julie Katterhenry, Fundraising . . 896-2647
- Dennis Birchfield, Grounds 896-3214

Directors-at-Large

- Paul Beamer 896-2800
- Marcy Birchfield 896-3214
- Terry Graham 896-9733
- Andy Wilsey 896-2355
- Jim Swathworth 896-2861
- Ron & Julie Humphrey 896-2679
- Jesse & Tammie Pruitt 896-2671
- Tom Wakefield 896-2347

HERITAGE SCHOOL BOARD

Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Homer School.

- Jim Fish, President 896-2756
- Dave Bosch, Vice President 834-3443
- Charles Berry 834-3361
- Bruce Block 834-3090
- Dale Katterhenry 896-2647
- John Lannon 684-2728
- Kevin Wright 896-2865

HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD

Meets the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Homer Historical Building

- Marian Edwards, President 896-2254
- Becky Smith, Vice President 896-2722
- Charlotte Brown, Secretary 582-2056
- Pat Butler, Treasurer 896-2657
- Bill Butler 896-2657
- Tim Kirby 896-2323
- Helen Krukewitt 896-2198
- Jim Mullis
- Molly Shoaf 896-2549

HOMER LIBRARY BOARD

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.


- Sara Essig, President 896-2772
- 896-2145
- Jeanine Bensken, Vice Pres. 896-2693
- Linda Pruitt, Secretary 896-2742
- Marilyn Collins, Treasurer 896-2282
- Gertrude Brown 896-2049
- Cindy James 896-3014
- Cathy Lance 896-2086

HOMER RECREATION BOARD

Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

- Danny Gordon, Chairperson 896-2585
- Cindy Pruitt, Treasurer 896-2114
- Bobbi Gordon 896-2585
- Lynda Umbarger 896-2540
- Tiffany Matthis 896-2689
- Ryan Byerley 896-2026
- Becky Umsted
- Heather McAlister 896-3044

Everyone is encouraged to attend any of the above meetings. If you would like to list your nonprofit organization members, contact any of the CDB Board Members listed above.



HOMER News & Views

Homer News & Views is YOUR newsletter. Its content and value depend upon each resident of the community. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please drop it off at the Homer Country Market or mail to the HCDB, P.O. Box 11, Homer, IL 61849.

*Photography by James Alred
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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. Opinions expressed within are the personal opinions or feelings of the writers and not to be taken as a criticism of anyone.



FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

— by Naomi Roberts

Wolf Grain Systems, Inc.

To be the best price out there," is the objective of Terry Wolf of Wolf Grain Systems, Inc. Having built a reputation on repeat business, Wolf can proudly say Wolf Grain Systems is the best price in six to eight counties around Champaign for any farmer's auger needs. Wolf sells augers mainly in Indiana and Illinois, but he has sold them all across this nation, in places such as College Station, Texas, West Virginia, Michigan and Wisconsin, and Phoenix, Arizona.

In 1976, when Wolf Grain Systems was a partnership between Dale Wolf and Ralph Pierce, they sold grain bins and augers. Shortly after Wolf bought out Pierce, Wolf Grain Systems became the largest dealer for Mayrath Augers. Almost twenty years later, they still are the largest Mayrath dealer. When Wolf first began to concentrate on augers, he exhibited them at the



Photo by James Alfred

Wolf Grain Systems —(L to R) Terry Wolf, Jan Wolf, Don Glenn, Tom Wolf, Deana Wolf, Bob Jones, and Jeremy Wolf.

Illinois State Fair. For ten to eleven days, he would show augers and talk to people. Wolf also advertised in *Prairie Farmer*. Now he advertises mainly in *Illinois Agri-News*, because it has the highest circulation with the target audi-

ence. His best source of advertisement, however, is still by word of mouth.

Wolf manages the feat of being Mayrath's largest dealer by offering a high quality product at a competitive price to producers. Part of his ability "to be the best price out there," is due to his purchase of a semi-load of augers at one time. Wolf buys approximately 100 augers a year and always sells out by the end of the year. Wolf buys by volume, therefore he receives volume discounts which he can and does pass along to producers.

Another reason producers continue to do business with Wolf Grain Systems, Inc. is because Wolf delivers and sets up the augers on the producer's farm. In order to accomplish this task, Wolf relies on Tom Wolf and Jeremy Wolf. During the real busy months, Wolf

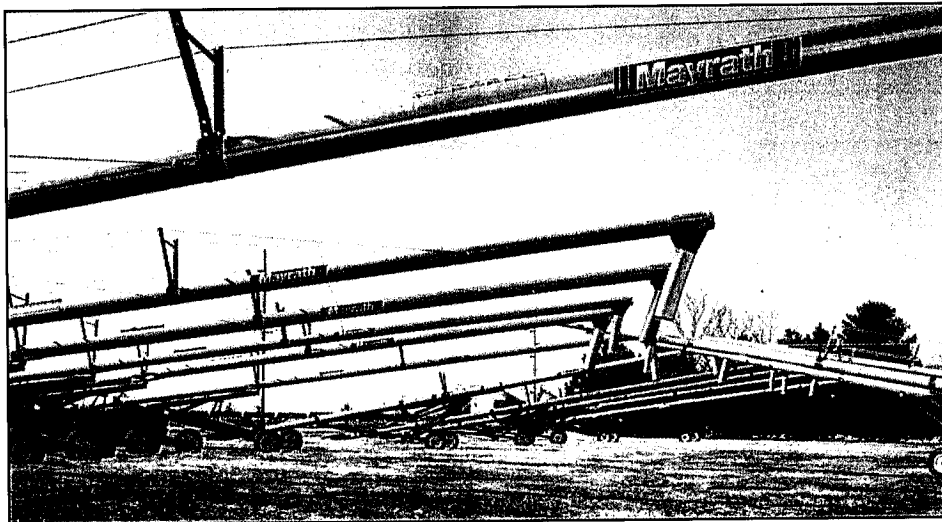


Photo by James Alfred

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WOLF GRAIN SYSTEMS *(cont'd)*

also has help from Don Glenn and Bob Jones. Jan Wolf, Wolf's wife and Vice President of the company also has a major part in making the business run smoothly. Jan is always manning the phones, maintaining the books and taking care of the customers. Wolf acknowledges, "It's a team effort," and that all these people make the business the success it is.

Selling augers is an off season business for Wolf, not unlike most farmers who raise hogs or cattle to offset their seasonal crop of corn and beans. Wolf plants a crop in the spring, sells augers in July, August, and September, and harvests his crops in the fall. Sometimes his selling season overlaps his harvest season, which isn't a good thing, because it presents time constraints, and the need of extra man power. Wolf always tries to have all augers set-up and in place before harvest begins. Being a farmer, Wolf knows what it is like not to have working equipment in place and ready to go. Which is why he also provides a side-line parts business. He carries a complete line of auger parts in stock for timely repairs during harvest. There isn't much to repair on augers, however. An auger consists of one to three gear boxes, a tube the grain runs through, and a screw inside the tube to turn the grain and keep it flowing into the bin. Nearly all augers, nowadays, are galvanized, which means the auger lasts longer and looks better. Most farmers have more than one auger because it is the cheapest expenditure they make per bushel, because augers last for many years. Some producers have run as much as a hundred thousand bushels of grain through one auger.

Wolf Grain Systems' number one selling auger has a 10" diameter tube that is 62' long. It is a swing away auger that can load 4,500 bushels of grain per hour. This means six semis carrying 750 bushels of grain could dump in an hour. At this rate the producer saves a tremendous amount of time on their own farm when moving and storing grain. Wolf predicts in the 2002 season augers will be 13" in diameter and over 100' long to accommodate larger grain bins and flat storage.

According to Wolf, accommodating a customer's needs and being accessible when they are in need are high priorities in order to be successful in business. Located at 2761 CR 1100N, Jan, Tom, or Jeremy Wolf are always there Monday through Friday, 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., but even in off hours customers should feel free to call 896-2192. ■

HOMER SCOUT TROOP 42

August 3, 2001 Troop 42 will be leaving for their Appalachian Trail hike. The High scholars in the Troop are going to go on a 7-day hike, and the Jr. High Troop is going to go on day hikes. They have been planning this trip for quite some time now, and have been doing some fundraisers to help defer the cost of the trip. The Scouts have been practicing their skills by taking long hikes from Homer Lake to Kickapoo, trails at Camp Drake and learning about what to expect and the equipment that is needed for the trip. The Troop will be having several more fundraisers before the trip and we would

appreciate the communities' help in supporting them.

We'd like to give a big THANK YOU to the Methodist Men's Group and the Methodist Church for their generous support for our fund raisers, and everyone else who has contributed to our cause. We have a very generous community, and very proud to be part of it.

We would like to hear from people who might have some experience in hiking and would be interested in giving us some suggestions on equipment and knowledge of hiking please contact Dave Wakefield at 896-2735 or Jac Knoop at 896-2442. Thanks again Homer for all your support. ■

CUB SCOUT PACK 42

— PINWOOD DERBY RACE WINNERS —

Saturday March 10, 2001 the Homer Cub Scout Pack held their yearly Pinewood Derby race at the Heritage School. The races were a great hit, as well as the Pack's biggest fundraiser. They sold hot dogs; polish sausage; chips and pop. Thanks to the generous donations from some of our businesses in Homer we were able to have a very successful fundraiser. The Pack will put the funds to good use, such as being able to buy patches, awards, merit badges, helping to sponsor a Scout for camp, project supplies and much more.

We would like to thank our community for their support of our Pack; it helps make it possible for any young man who would like to become a Scout possible. The Pack is growing because of some very dedicated people who believe in this program and want to see our young people become good and upstanding citizens. We give THANKS to all of you. The judges this

year were Douglas Driscoll from Driscoll Pharmacy, Don Happ from Don's Automotive, and Tim Kirby from Kirby's Funeral Home. THANKS guys, I know it's a hard job but somebody had to do it, and you all did a good job! Dave Wakefield we give you a big THANKS too, you never fail at being faithful in doing the bracket placing. Also we would like to thank the Boy Scouts for all their help in doing anything that needed to be done. There are a lot of people who work hard putting the event together so it will be successful and lots of fun.

Now to get to the most important part the WINNERS! The Scouts have to take a small block of wood and make it into some of the most awesome looking cars that you have ever seen. If you've never seen a Pinewood Derby Race I'd like to encourage you to come next year, you will have a wonderful time, I promise.

TIGER CUB WINNERS: RACE: 1st. - Brandon Craddock, 2nd - Gage Bailey, 3rd - Brandon. SHOW: 1st - Gage Bailey, 2nd - Brandon Oscar, 3rd - Paul Cunningham.

WOLF WINNERS: RACE: 1st - Hoby Brown, 2nd - Eathan Novick. SHOW: 1st - Austin Rochester, 2nd - Eathan Novick, 3rd - Hoby Brown.

BEAR WINNERS: RACE: 1st - Nicholas Umbarger, 2nd - Alex Ray, 3rd - Charles Bailey. SHOW: 1st - Brandon Birchfield, 2nd - Nicholas Umbarger, 3rd - Kye Graham.

WEBLOS WINNERS: RACE: 1st - Tom Hire, 2nd - Austin Richards, 3rd - Brandon Moore. SHOW: 1st - Austin Richards, 2nd - Kyle McClain, 3rd - Alex Chan.

PACK: 1st - Nicholas Umbarger, 2nd - Tom Hire, 3rd - Gage Pailey.

OPEN CLASS: 1st - Dennis Birchfield, 2nd - Eunice Mumm.

OVERALL SHOW: 1st - Gage Bailey, 2nd - Brandon Birchfield, 3rd - Austin Rochester.

GRAND CHAMPION: Nicholas Umbarger.

SCOUT MASTER: Jac Knoop. **ASSISTANT SCOUT MASTER:** John Kammin. **TIGER CUB LEADER:** Angela Doggett. **WOLF LEADERS:** Anita Brown and Dianna Wohler. **BEAR LEADERS:** John Kammin and David Umbarger. **WEBLO LEADERS:** Jami Bryant and Sarah Essig.

HOMER'S GREATEST GENERATION

PART VI — MARION WOODSIDE

— by Chris Reel —

While many young men enlisted in the military or were drafted following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, there were many who were already in the service. Others, such as Marion Woodside, having already served in the military and being no longer on active duty, were reactivated.

Enlisting in 1937, Marion was in the Army's 5th Infantry, stationed at Fort Wayne in Detroit. One bitterly cold winter night, Marion was walking guard duty. He noticed a man walking toward him and challenged him in the proper procedure, asking him what he was doing there. Marion was pleasantly surprised to learn it was the general, asking Marion what he was doing there. Marion replied that he was doing what he was supposed to be doing, but the general told him to go inside. It was just too cold to be outside.

In the summers, Marion was on maneuvers at Camp Custer in Battle Creek, Michigan, and in Wisconsin.

At the end of his enlistment in 1940, he was required to join the Reserves. His return to civilian life was cut short by Pearl Harbor and the entry of the United States into World War II. Reactivated in 1941, he was sent to join the military police at Fort Sheridan in Illinois. While he was there, the 50th Signal Battalion came to recruit members; the stipulation was that

any recruits must go overseas. Marion chose to join the battalion.

While waiting to go to overseas, he built telephone lines in Mississippi, Louisiana and neighboring states. He sailed out of New York City later that

to New York City. The ship was eventually repaired and sailed for Iceland after the beginning of the New Year.

Marion spent two years in the signal battalion on Iceland's west coast, stationed at air bases in Reykjavik and

Keflavik, doing construction. The rugged landscape and climate required special adaptations. Twenty-four hour daylight in the summer allowed crews to work around the clock in shifts. However, there was only one foot of dirt on top of rock. So it took three men on 108 pound jackhammers eight hours to dig a ditch one foot deep in order to lay cable. The Quonset huts in which the troops lived were secured by piling rocks around them and putting cables over them to keep the wind from blowing them away.

From Iceland, Marion went to England for invasion training, where he took part in the ill-advised and disastrous Exercise Tiger. This training exercise took place on 28 April, 1944, out of

Slapton Sands on the south coast of Great Britain, in preparation for the invasion of France at the code-named Utah Beach on D-Day. Exercise Tiger resulted in so many American casualties, that the full story of the operation was kept from the public for decades.

Marion saw action in France, Scotland, England, Belgium (at the Battle of the Bulge), Holland, Luxembourg and Germany (in the Battle for



year on an old troop ship bound for Iceland, in a convoy ultimately headed for Great Britain. However, the twin-screw ship he was on threw a propeller. The captain could have taken a chance and continued on for Iceland, but if they couldn't keep up with the rest of the convoy, they would be exposed to attack from German submarines. They waited for ten days in Halifax, Nova Scotia, for an escort back

Huertgen Forest). There was a tremendous loss of life in these battles. Like many World War II veterans, Marion doesn't like to think about what he saw and experienced there. It was too horrendous.

In early 1945, Marion was offered several choices, one of which was to go back to the States. He had accumulated enough points and chose to go home. He was married in March of that year during a 30 day furlough from Fort Sheridan, and then took a discharge, having achieved the rank of Technical Fourth Grade. Marion earned a total of eight medals, including the Bronze Star and the European African Middle Eastern Campaign medal.

He worked for the power company in Lincoln for 12 years and then moved to Homer in 1956, where he worked for 32 more years. He is a 55 year

member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

While in Lincoln, he joined the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #1441. On July 30, 1999, he was honored as the only 50 year member.

Marion was a Homer village board member and served several terms as mayor. He and his wife have five daughters and two grandsons.

For more information about Exercise Tiger and two major battles Marion was in, see these websites.

Exercise Tiger

<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq20-2.htm>
<http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq87-3g.htm>

Battle of the Bulge

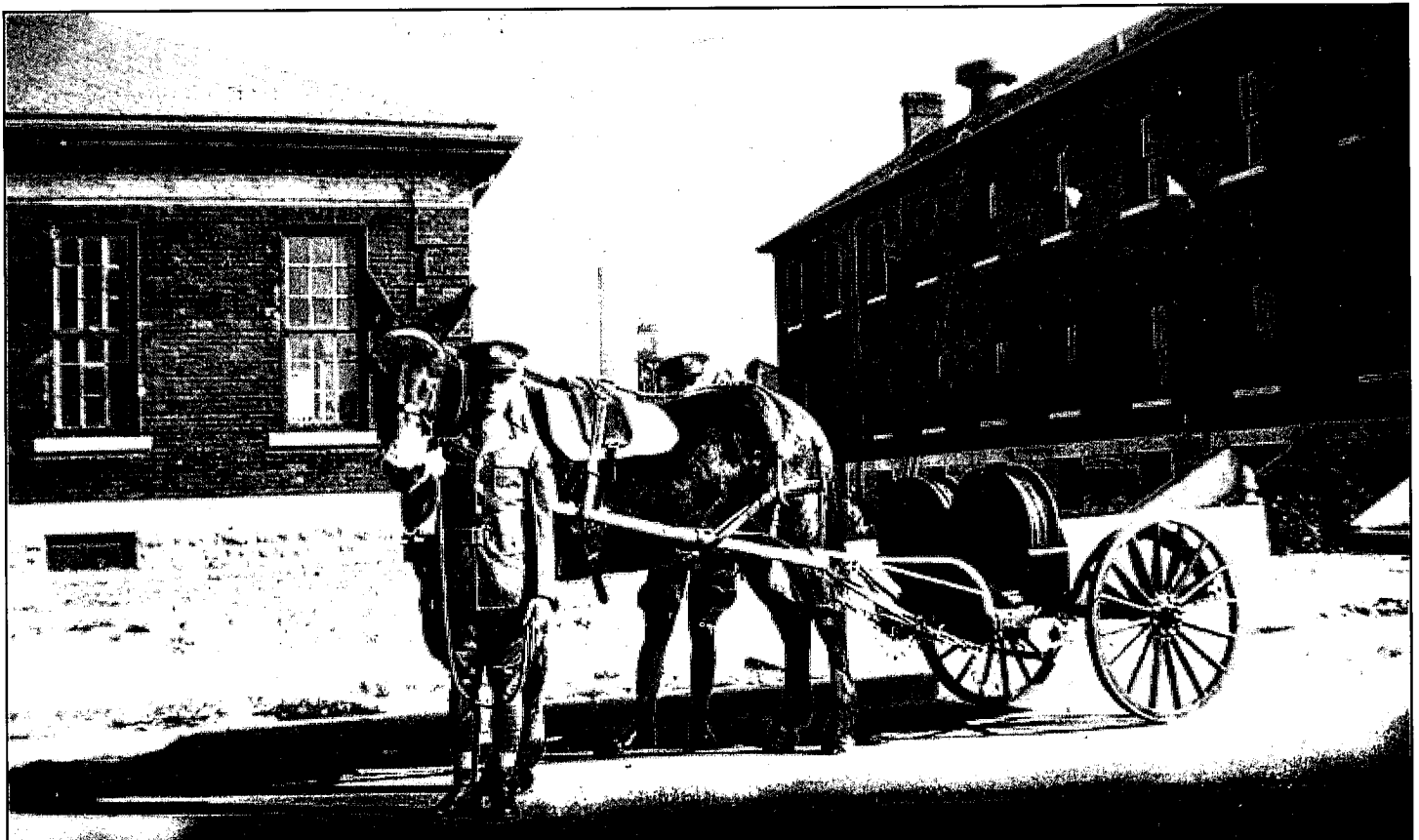
<http://www.mm.com/user/jpk/battle.htm>
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/guts/sfeature/dispatch.html>

Huertgen Forest

<http://members.ols.net/~ernieh/HuertgenForest.html>



Dec. 12, 1944 — A G.I. from the 9th Division talks to a German soldier captured during the Huertgen battle.



1935 — Marion Woodside.

HOMER CHURCH NEWS

COMMON GARMENTS MINISTRIES

Evangelist C.W. Greer, from Homer, Illinois, has announced that Common Garments Ministries has expanded into radio ministry. The Common Garments Ministries Broadcast can be heard every Sunday morning at 7:30am on WJCI Magic 1460AM.

"This is an opportunity for us to reach more people for Jesus Christ," said Greer. The broadcast contains preaching, teaching, and music.

Common Garments Ministries began in 1998 and continues to hold revivals throughout Illinois and Indiana. Evangelist C.W. Greer and wife Debbie conduct revivals through preaching and music at the local churches. All base of operations are from Homer, where they reside with their two children, MaryAlice and Eleanor. ■

HOMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"He has risen; He is not here." — Mark 16:6

Arthur Brisbane once pictured a crowd of grieving caterpillars carrying the corpse of a cocoon to its final resting place. The poor, distressed caterpillars, wearing black clothes, were all weeping. Meanwhile, above them floated a beautiful butterfly, happily fluttering above the muck and mire of the earth, forever free of its earthly shell.

The "Hymn of Promise" in the United Methodist Hymnal begins with the words, "In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, and apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!"

Because Jesus Christ died and rose again to defeat death, each of us carries a hidden promise that one day we too will shed the cocoons of our earthly bodies, and just like the butterflies, we too, will be free. We too, will float high above the muck and mire of the earth. We too, will take on a beautiful new body just like Christ's.

That is the hope and faith of the Easter Resurrection. That is the reason why we come to church, the reason why we worship. That is why we follow the teachings of Jesus Christ. That is the reason we call ourselves Christians, Because we know that just like the butterfly, "He has risen; He is not here." And we know that one-day, we too, will rise again.

Join us in church this month. Come and worship together

with other people just like yourself. Share in the Easter Resurrection of Christ. Buried within you is a hidden promise to be free, and the power for living a full, rich life in the name of Jesus Christ.

On Palm Sunday, April 8 we will be holding our annual Lenten Fair in the Fellowship Hall at 9AM. There will be lots of crafts and goodies for kids and adults alike. On Easter Sunday, we'll begin with an Easter Egg Hunt for the Sunday school kids at 9AM. Then at 10:15AM, the choir will present their annual Easter Cantata. This would be a great time to come to church, meet some new people, see some old friends, and join us in an uplifting celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. ■

— Pastor Steve, Homer United Methodist Church

FROM THE PRESBYTERIANS

Holy Week schedule will be observed from April 9-15. All are welcome and encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities.

On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, (April 9-11), the church will be open for prayer and meditation. About 7:30 each evening, appropriate scripture will be read. Comments and prayer requests will also be considered. Feel free to stay the entire time or any part of it.

On Thursday, April 12 at 7:30 PM, Maundy Thursday will be observed with communion. All are welcome. On Good Friday, we will be joining with other Christians at the Church of Christ to consider the Crucifixion of our Lord. Plans are incomplete for Easter at this writing, but a service and fellowship breakfast is being planned. Watch the Leader and posters around town for further information.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is received during Lent and will be dedicated on Easter. This offering is used to relieve human need in this country and around the world.

You are invited to share in the fellowship of the Homer Presbyterian Church. If you claim Christ as your Savior or would seek to know more about Him: take a traditional approach to worship; believe the Bible to be God's Word to us; and desire to hear the gospel proclaimed; and would be challenged in your faith and Christian life; you are welcome. An adult class meets at 9 AM and worship is at 10 AM. ■

— Jim Swathwood, Lay Pastor

HOMER CHURCH NEWS

HOMER CHURCHES COOPERATING

Homer Churches Cooperating is a venture between the four churches of Homer, The Church of Christ, The Homer Presbyterian Church, St. Charles Borromeo Roman Catholic Church and The United Methodist Church. We are dedicated to helping families and individuals become self-sufficient and improve their quality of life. To that end, we practice a wide variety of worship styles, traditions and ministries in the name of Jesus Christ. We invite you to attend the church of your choice this Easter Season by offering the following special services, as well as a schedule of our traditions services.

Homer Churches Cooperating will be holding a community Good Friday Service at the Church of Christ on April 13th at 7PM.

The Church of Christ will be holding an Easter Service at 10:30AM. Normal weekly services are: Sunday School 9:30AM, worship 10:30AM.

The Homer Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Maundy Thursday Communion Service on April 12th at 7PM and an Easter sunrise Service on the 15th at 7AM. Normal weekly services are: Sunday School 9AM, worship 10AM.

St. Charles Borromeo will be offering a Holy Thursday Mass in celebration of the Last Supper on April 12th at 5:30PM, a Good Friday Liturgy Service on the 13th at 5:30PM, and Easter Vigil Service hosted by St. Patrick's in Tolono on the 14th at 7:30PM, and an Easter Morning Mass on the 15th at 10:30AM in Homer. Normal weekly services are: Religious Education (CCD) 9:30AM, Mass 10:30AM.

The Homer United Methodist Church will be holding a Lenten Fair with crafts and food on Palm Sunday, April 8 at 9AM. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt for Sunday School children at 9AM on the 15th, and the choir will perform an Easter Cantata at 10:15AM. Normal weekly services are: Sunday School 9AM, worship 10:15AM.

Attend the church of your choice during the Easter Season and make it a yearlong habit. You'll be glad you did. ■

HOMER LIBRARY NEWS

On March 8, Mayor David Lucas, Building Consultant Dr. Fred Schlipf and architect Gary Olsen gave presentations about the plans for renovation and restoration of the historic village hall. The library will have more than triple the present space, with comfortable seating for those who wish to sit and read in the library. There will be separate areas for young adult, junior age and preschool children. We will have room to expand our audio/video collection. The library will be light and roomy, with windows on the south side, and high windows on the east, as we will occupy the east end of the building. The remainder of the building will have greatly improved facilities for village functions. The renovated building will be a source of pride for village residents, and a drawing card to bring more people into Homer, both for special events and as new residents. Schlipf and Olsen have done a wonderful job of drawing up a plan for the renovation of the building.

Chris' Quick Pick: a non-fiction book this time, *Strong Women, Strong Bones* by Dr. Miriam Nelson. If you have

osteoporosis, or are concerned about avoiding it, you should read this book. Packed with information on the causes, treatment, and prevention of brittle bones, the book contains lots of helpful information. Exercise programs, information on hormone replacement therapy and calcium supplements are some of the topics covered. ■



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& Furniture Repair

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217-896-2095

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HOMER RECREATION BOARD

— by Bonnie Miller —

4TH OF JULY

I'd like to start off by thanking everyone who helped last July 4th with the games in the Park. You all made it a successful event. I'd like to encourage everyone who helped last year to do so again this year, even if you were one of those that got recruited at the Park on a last minute request. I was very impressed with how the community came together and helped make it a lot of fun for everyone. I learned that if you just ask, people are more than happy to help. I really enjoyed all the games and events but I have to say, I think the tug of war was my favorite event. I would like to encourage our community to help keep our July 4th an on going and growing Holiday in our own Home Town Park. I thought that there were not going to be any games or events taken place last year, and it saddened me to think that my younger children weren't going to have memories of July 4th in their Park like my older children. So many children were very willing to help out to make it possible. It came about with the help of them and everyone else like the Homer Fire Dept. and their families. Thanks for making it a good memory for the young and young at heart. Let's do it again. Please don't be afraid to help. It's a very rewarding experience. Don't think you're too old or too young, there's always something you can do to help, no experience necessary just your own memories of your past July 4th's.

There is talk of a parade starting at the school and ending at the Park with Homer's American Legion Post 290 ceremony starting off the events of the day. Scheduling of events and times will be in a later issue. Games will end by 4:00 P.M. so that the Firemen who are on duty all day can be with their families for awhile, until they come back together to go out in the field with the people who set off the fireworks. The Homer Fire Dept. deserves a great big thanks for all they do on that day. They're there to make sure their services are immediate when medical attention is needed. Thanks Homer HFPD!

I'd like to see these things happen in the Park this year: a Rag Time Band; Jazz Band; Barber Shop Quartet; Dance Demonstrations; the School Band and School Chorus to sing or play an instrument solo or in a group; or anyone who just wants to perform. I think a good time for this would be after the games are over and people are wanting some winding down time to enjoy their picnic, great food in the Park, or to

just sit back and enjoy.

Come on Homer lets make this another great July 4th. Any suggestions are welcome.

UN-STOPPABLE

In the second game of the newly formed Homer Recreation men's basketball season, Dave Robertson was un-stoppable. Dave helped his team "Homer Nostalgia" to overcome the Methodist Church with his first triple double of the season. Dave scored 15 points, had 15 rebounds and 10 assists leading his team to a 40 to 30 victory. The Homer Nostalgia is tied for first place with a record of 2 - 0 and they are having a great time playing ball. Dave is a local boy who played for Homer in the late 70's. Dave went on to say, "It's a good thing that the Homer Recreation Board has started an adult league for us locals and I am excited to see this league continue with its future plans". ■

HOMER RECREATION UPDATE

The Homer Recreation Board in conjunction with the Homer Race Team is working hard to get ready for the summer Drag Races. Soon we will be putting up fences at the drag strip and we would love to have some help. Saturday June 23rd is our first race date and we hope to see you there so mark it on your calendar. The best way to remember our race schedule is the 4th Saturday of every month of summer. If you would like to be an official sponsor of the Homer RaceTrack (the Homer 500), there are several opportunities for you and your company to take advantage of this. For more information call Danny Gordon at 896-2585 or Mike Johnson at 896-2228. If you want to race in this event and need a registration form, contact Danny Gordon, and remember the first two races are pre-registration only. If you are looking for information on vending at the Homer 500, contact Stacey Johnson 896-2228.

Our annual garage sale is set for May 4th and 5th. If you want to get your garage sale location on our map, contact Jill Hashbarger at 896-3010 the cost is \$5.00. The Homer Recreation Board is looking to fill the board position of secretary. Come join us and be a part of the Recreation Team. We meet every second Thursday night at village hall at 7:30 pm. ■

HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Have you visited your Historical Museum on Main Street in Homer lately? If the answer is no, then SHAME ON YOU!! If the answer is yes, you will remember seeing, among other things, the newly encased memorial flag that covered the casket of one of our local heroes when he was brought home and buried in his hometown cemetery. Walter E. Rohrschieb was killed on Guadalcanal, January 22, 1943 at the age of 23. His body was buried in the cemetery there and returned to the United States after World War II. Walter was born and raised on a farm 2 miles east of Homer. He graduated from Maple Grove Grade School, also east of Homer, and from Homer Community High School in 1937. His family chose to donate his memorabilia including his purple heart to the Homer Historical Society. We appreciate this gesture of generosity by his family and are proud and honored that they have entrusted us with the care of these precious items. A special case has been chosen to respectfully display them along with a picture of Walter. Walter enjoyed his freedom as he was growing up here and he along with other Homer Heroes and thousands of young men all over the country



gave their lives so that you and I can enjoy our freedom now.

The society is looking for new members who are interested in helping preserve Homer community history. For more information, contact Marion at 896-2254 or talk to any member of the society.

We are proud of our museum and the work that is being done there. We continue to add to the exhibits featuring artifacts that have been donated to the museum by the thoughtful, generous and caring people of our community. It is the hope of the Historical Society that everyone in the area will come in and enjoy the displays of these artifacts. You may be surprised to find some of your own history there.

Museum hours: 2:00 to 3:30 PM every Thursday.

The Historical Society has planned a trip to the Rossville, IL Museum on Sunday April 29. We will leave the Homer Museum at 12:30 (don't get left behind!!!) and travel to Ryan's in Danville where we will have lunch and then on to Rossville. It looks like another fun day and we hope you will make plans to be with us. For more information, contact Nondus Wakefield at 896-2447.

We would like to invite everyone to our monthly meetings, the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Homer Historical Society Museum, 107 North Main, Homer, IL. ■

The Homer Historical Society needs your help. Can you help us identify any of these boys? Please let us know if we have the wrong name. Call or send any information to Becky Smith, 300 East South St., Homer, IL 61849. 896-2722, e-mail: r-smith3@uiuc.edu This picture was the 1971-1972 BaseBall Team.



Coach: Richard Bergmeier. Front Row: Unknown; John Wilson. Middle Row: George Pfaab; Jim Wolf; Lee Hockersmith; Craig Killian; Richard Bergmeier (Coach); Unknown; Unknown; Unknown; Unknown. Back Row: Unknown; Unknown; Unknown; Unknown; John Dodd; Unknown; Unknown; Bob Clem.

HOMER VILLAGE HALL TO BE RENOVATED

— by Greg Knott —

Big changes are being planned for the historic Homer Village Hall and Opera House. These initiatives were outlined at a public hearing March 8, at the Village Hall by Mayor Dave Lucas.

Originally known as the Jurgensmeyer Building, the Village Hall was constructed and opened in 1902. It features 2 floors with approximately 7,000 square feet on each level. The second floor contains an Opera House on the west half of the upper story.

The building has housed many things through the years including Homer High School, doctor's offices, photographic studios, grocery stores and banks. The Opera House has been used for shows, school and local productions, musical troupes, semi-professional basketball and Golden Gloves Boxing amongst other things.

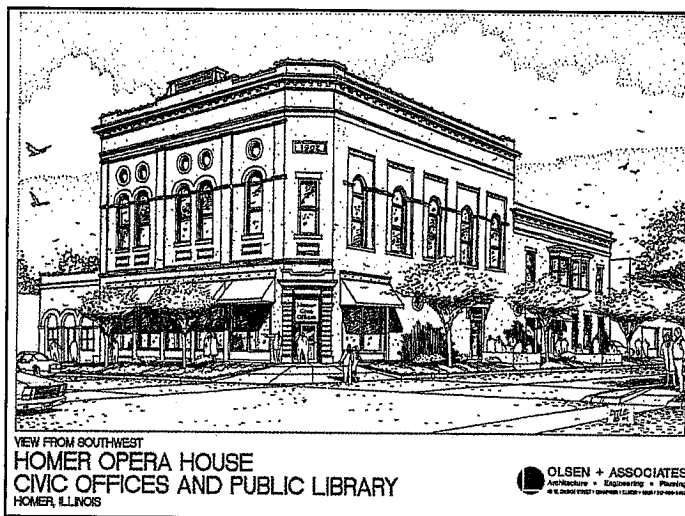
On April 2, 1972 the Jurgensmeyer Building was rededicated as the Homer Village Hall. At present the first floor of the building houses, the Village offices, Police Department, Homer Library, a meeting room, a kitchen and dining room and the Girl Scouts. The second floor still contains the Opera House and several rooms used for storage.

The building now nearly 100 years old has come to a crossroad. Additional space needs are required for the library and police department and facilities are woefully inadequate to hold recreation and cultural events.

To address these needs the Village Board and Library Board began discussions last year to chart a course for the future. Several options were discussed and essentially were narrowed down to two, knock down the existing building

and go with new construction or renovate and restore the existing structure.

In examining these options, two experts were hired to assist in the project. Fred Schlipf who is Director of the Urbana Free Library and a well known library and space consultant and Gary Olsen an architect from Olsen and Associates in Champaign. Both Mr. Schlipf and Mr. Olsen have been involved in a number



of projects of this nature through the years.

An analysis conducted by Mr. Olsen showed that new construction a Village Hall and Library on the existing site and construction of Civic Center on a new site would cost approximately \$2,591,000. A second analysis of renovating and restoring both floors

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of the existing Village Hall would cost approximately \$1,419,000.

The decision has been made to move forward with the planning for the renovation and restoration of the existing building. In proceeding with the renovation several advantages have been identified. These include the cost effectiveness of renovating the 14,000 square feet of existing space rather than incur additional costs with new construction. Preserving the historic building will insure that future generations of resident will get to appreciate the special heritage that Homer has. By making a commitment to the downtown area, the Village will lead the way for restoration of the business district.

Obviously the first question that was asked is how will this project be funded? Mayor Lucas outlined several potential funding sources. The first of these is working jointly with the library. The library board has been very frugal through the past few years and has managed to save money for new library space. The library has also been the recipient of some thoughtful donations. The library will also be working with Mr. Schlipf in applying for a grant through the Illinois Secretary of State's Office.

The Village will be working with our State Legislators in obtaining a variety of other grants to assist in paying for the renovation. A complete breakdown of funding sources can be obtained from Mayor Lucas.

Work is tentatively scheduled to begin by July 4, 2002 and completed by July 4, 2005. 2002 is the 100th anniversary of the building and 2005 is the 150th anniversary of Homer as a village.

The plans include reopening and restoration of the original doors and windows, installation of an elevator to make the 2nd floor accessible, significantly increasing the size of the library, a new meeting room/kitchen that can be used by Peace Meals, updated conference room and village offices and improved police department facilities.

On the 2nd floor, the stairway will be opened up, the Opera House will be restored to a functional condition, an additional stairway built to the mezzanine section in the Opera House, office and meeting space added and bathrooms constructed.

Outside additional landscaping will be developed to enhance the overall appearance of the site.

The complete plans are available for viewing in the Village Hall. Stop by and take a look at this wonderful project.

The road to completing this project of course may not be easy. But the Village Board and Library Board have already shown a strong commitment for seeing this project getting off the ground and will see it through to completion. Homer has had a very proud past and with this project will have an even brighter future. ■

**CELEBRATE EARTH DAY
AT HOMER LAKE
"YOUTH BIRD COUNT EVENT"**

On Saturday, April 21 the Champaign County Forest Preserve District and the Champaign County Audubon Society will be holding a Youth Bird Count for all children ages 7-12. All participants should arrive at the Salt Fork River Forest Preserve, Homer Lake visitor center by 8:30 am. The event will conclude by 11:30 am. Individuals and groups (Church, Scouts, etc.) are welcome to register.

Each participant will be placed on a team upon registration. On the day of the event, each team will be led through a trail by an Audubon volunteer in order to identify and count as many birds as possible!

Towards the end of the morning, each team will tabulate their findings for the day while sharing a snack provided by Audubon. Each participant will receive a "prize" just for participating. Door prizes will also be given! Pre-registration required: Contact Sarah Livesay at 217-896-2455 to register for this fun morning of hiking, learning and sharing! ■



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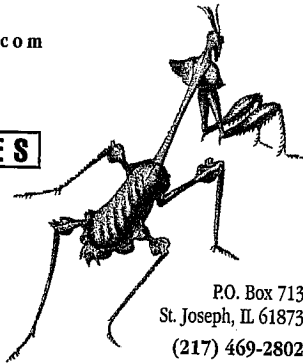


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My mission as a coach, for the All-Star cheerleading teams are to offer the best technical coaching and innovative choreography possible. We teach kids how to be exceptional cheerleaders, but most importantly, We teach the kids how to be exceptional people. Focusing on teamwork, commitment, and loyalty, kids learn how to encourage one another while building their own self-confidence.

Classes are held in the Homer School gym on Saturday afternoons and the age divisions open for classes are 4 years of age through high school seniors. Open registration for competitive teams are going to be in May. Classes are currently open for registration there is openings in all age divisions. Call Stephanie Beamer for more information at 217-896-3800 or e-mail at eceallstars@aol.com ■

**HOMER COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT BOARD****NEW HOMER SIGN ON I-74**

The Illinois Department of Transportation has approved placing signs along Interstate 74 indicating where to exit for Homer. These signs will be placed approximately ¾ mile east and west of the Ogden/Royal interchange. These will be separate signs than the existing exit signs.

With these new signs it will be easier for individuals to find Homer from the interstate. The Homer Community Development Board and specifically Bobbi Gordon initiated this request and it was approved within 2 weeks by IDOT. These new signs will be erected in late spring or early summer by IDOT. ■

HOMER HOUSEHOLD

"Easter Brunch"

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

6 slices of bread	2 c. milk
1 lb. ground sausage	1 t. salt
2 T. chopped onion	¼ t. pepper
4 T. chopped green pepper, optional	1 t. dry mustard
1 c. shredded cheddar cheese	6 eggs

Lightly grease a 9 x 13 pan. Tear bread into bite size pieces and place in pan. In a skillet, brown sausage, onion and green pepper, drain. Beat the milk, salt, pepper, mustard and eggs together. Sprinkle sausage mix over bread, then cheese. Pour milk mixture over all this, cover and refrigerate overnight. Next morning, bake at 350° for 30-40 min, uncovered, until puffy and eggs are set. Serve.

CITRUS FRUIT BOWL

Combine, ⅓ c. fresh orange juice, ⅓ c. lemon juice, ⅓ brown sugar, 1 cinnamon stick, ½ t. grated orange peel, ½ t. grated lemon peel. Place in pan and heat to boiling, reduce heat and simmer for 5 min. Cool, remove cinnamon stick, chill for several hours.

In a clear glass bowl, layer the following in order given: 2 c. fresh pineapple, diced; 1 pint fresh strawberries, sliced; 2 kiwi, peeled and sliced; 3 med bananas, sliced; 2 oranges, peeled and sectioned; and 1 c. red grapes.

Pour chilled Citrus Sauce over fruit and chill until ready to serve.

POLISH EASTER BREAD

½ c margarine or butter, softened	1t. grated lemon peel
½ c sugar	1 t. cinnamon
3 egg yolks	½ t. salt
1 pkg dry yeast	4 c. flour
¼ c. warm water	1 c lukewarm milk
2 t. grated orange peel	(scald then cool)
1 c. golden raisins	

Beat margarine or butter, and sugar in a large bowl. Beat in egg yolks until well blended. Dissolve yeast in warm water. Stir yeast mixture, orange peel, lemon peel, cinnamon and salt into margarine mixture. Stir in flour alternately with milk, beating well after each addition, until soft dough forms. Stir in raisins. Cover and let rise in a warm place until double, about 1½ hours. Stir down dough, spoon into greased and floured bundt pan or tube pan. Cover and let rise again until double about 1 hour. Heat oven to 350°, bake until bread is golden brown, about 35-40 min. Cool 5 min, then remove from pan, cool completely. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or glaze with 1 c powdered sugar, 1 T. warm water and 1 t. lemon juice mixed together. ■

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