

HOMER



News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

YOUNT-SMITH FARM LINEAGE

PART TWO

Jonathon Arbery Yount died December 23, 1872. His widow, Sarah, married a farm employee, Sam Clutter. The 1880 census lists Sam Clutter, age 25, and his wife Sarah, age 38, six Yount children, ages 9 to 17, and four Clutter children, ages 1/2 to 5. Two more children resulted from this union. Homer residents, Joe Clutter and Nondus Clutter Wakefield are two of the grandchildren of Sam and Sarah Clutter.

The descendants of Jonathon and Sarah Yount continued with their six children. The youngest of these, William Edward, lived and farmed some of the Yount land all of his life. He first married Amada E. Richards. She and their first child died during child birth. He and his second wife, Florence Libka, lived on part of the farm located in the north-east corner of Section 4 of South Homer township. This location is now the home of Tom and Sue Smith and family.

George, the oldest of the six children of Jonathon, lived in Homer for a time until he deserted his wife, Rhoda Gray Yount, daughters Lucille and Alta Marie, and considerable debt. Prior to this time, George convinced his youngest brother, William Edward, to co-sign mortgage loans so that George could undertake several commercial enterprises and to buy or build and operate a tavern in Homer. George had purchased a number of properties in Homer. The date of his departure and disappearance from Homer is not recorded.

During late 1895, William had to sell 108 acres of the original Yount farm to George D. Salladay in order to

cover the debt that George had accumulated. Terms of the sale were that Salladay would have immediate possession of farm land, and assume a mortgage of \$1,900 and one of \$1,000 plus the unpaid interest due January 1, 1896. The forced sale included the original Yount 1829 home and farm buildings. Eventually, William was able to buy back the 108 acres from Salladay in 1922, but at a cost of \$18,250. Due to the fact that this part of the Yount farm was not owned by the Yount family for a period of 27 years prevents it from being a Centennial Farm. Eleanor L. and James O. Smith now hold title to the 108 acres.

After George has been missing for many years, two of his sisters, Flora Ellen and Clara Bell, contracted with Pinkerton's Detective Agency to locate him at a cost of \$1,000. George was eventually located somewhere in Missouri, farming a small tract of hilly land. He never returned to Homer.

Prior to the time when the railroad was built through Vance and South Homer townships, Homer was located on the south bluff of the Salt Fork River one mile west of the county line where a water powered grist and saw mill was in operation. The road that connected old Homer with points to the east, crossed Olive Branch by the Olive Branch Methodist Church near where Willard and Naomi Morrison now live. From there, the road or trail angled north-west to the Yount farm passing in front of the 1829 Yount homestead, and thence, on west

Continued on page 3

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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.

Notice: This newsletter is published by the Homer Community Development Board 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.

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Smith -Yount Farm Lineage

— Continued from page 1

to Old Homer. When the town of Homer was moved to its present location, the road was also moved to its current location, eventually leaving the Yount homestead more or less isolated without access to a public road.

In 1924, William Edward granted an easement to his sister, Flora Ella Yount Freeman, (Dick Freeman's grandmother) along the south side of the south-west one-fourth of Section 34 as a "public highway", and for team and wagon for her use, her tenants and assignees. (The easement goes through the 108 acres mentioned earlier). This was to provide access to an isolated 20 acres owned by Flora. The 20 acres was purchased by James O. Smith in 1948 from Flora Ellen. As far as we know, the terms of the easement are still in effect.

Over the years since the farm originated in 1828, there have been 12 homes on the acreage. Today, 1998, there are but two. This illustrates how farm size has increased through mechanization.

— Compiled by James O. Smith, 13474N, 130E,
R.R. Box 327, Homer, IL 61849

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People may fail many times, but they become failures only when they begin to blame someone else.

Life is so short but there is always time enough for courtesy.

— Emerson

To The Editor

Many of your readers have a service available to them that they may not be aware of, but would be of benefit to them. The service I am speaking of is the Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program. Peace Meal promotes good health and independent living through a program of food, fun and fellowship for those 60 years of age and older. We provide lunch at a variety of community locations, so if you are over 60 and eat, then we extend to you a hearty welcome to join us.

Peace Meal not only provides a nutritious lunch, but educational and volunteer opportunities as well. The meal may be the drawing card for many people, but equally important is the socialization that our current participants enjoy. Many people live alone, and Peace Meal provides them the change to get out of the house and be with people of their own age. It certainly beats cooking for one, eating alone and doing the dishes!

Many people have the misconception that Peace Meal is only for people who are on a limited income. This is not true. No matter what a person's financial status, they are an important part of our program. For a suggested donation of \$1.75, you receive a balanced noon meal. Such a deal! Booklets of 10 meal tickets are available for purchase. They make a practical, thoughtful gift for the older person in your life.

Do you know someone who could benefit from home delivered meals? If you do, let us know and we will set the wheels in motion to determine their eligibility.

We invite all area seniors to take advantage of our program in their community. If you have questions or would like further information, please call our main office at 1-800-543-1770 or your local site at 896-2121 or 896-2668.

—Catherine M. Lentz, Assistant Director, Peace Meal

MARQUEE SIGN KEEPERS

If you have a message to post on the Homer Lions Club Marquee for June events, please telephone the Lions Members listed below with the information. The Marquee, located in front of the Homer City Building, is a free service provided by the Homer Lions. It is intended for use by nonprofit organizations who have announcements of public interest.

Sign keepers for August are
A. Brown 896-2049 and Dale Wolf 896-2253

Sign keepers for September are
J. Ellis 896-2015 and J. Eagles 896-2019

From the Mayor

There has been some questions in light of the new burning ordinance, specifically, "what do I do with my old burn barrel?" The Village Board discussed this question and thought it would be helpful to village residents to make available the Material Storage Areas east of town, as a drop off point. This idea was approved and you can now take your EMPTY burn barrels to this area. We will flatten them and have them recycled. If you have a barrel you want to dispose of and cannot physically get it to this area, please call the Village Hall and arrangements will be made to have the barrel picked up.

I am very pleased with the work the board did preparing this ordinance. I feel it accomplished all the major goals of making Homer a better place to live by reducing nuisance smoke, protecting street surfaces, and improving the visual impact of the community. I think most reasonable people view this effort as a good thing, and a positive step to creating a better environment for everyone in Homer. Thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

The Village Board has a new member, Jim Lacey. Jim took Kevin Thomas's place when he moved to Fisher earlier this year. Jim will fill out Kevin's unexpired term and be up for reelection in March of 2000. Jim sets on the Infrastructure committee and has already made contributions to the boards work. He brings knowledge and expertise to the board that is greatly appreciated. Jim, welcome and thank you for your service.

Water project update; The new wells and pipeline project is mired in bureaucratic paperwork. Our engineering company, Sodeman and Associates, are administering our two grants and our low interest EPA loan. The administration handbook with the guidelines to follow is over six inches thick. The progress is slow, but progress is being made. I asked if we were still on target for a November, 1998 completion date and the answer was "yes". The next step will be to drill the wells. This should be done in early September. I'll keep you posted.

I have tentatively set up a presentation on how to establish a TIF district here in Homer for the August 17th meeting. I am trying to get a TIF consultant to help us in setting up this program which will stimulate residential and commercial development in the village. If you are interested in attending, the TIF item will be on the agenda for that meeting date. Agendas can be picked up at Don's Marathon, Homer IGA and Dave's Restaurant.

A final note. I and other Village officials attended a special open house at a Midwest Tactical Training Center on July 10th. We were given a tour of the facility and shown demonstrations on the climbing wall, high ropes and "zip" line. I feel this installation is a great addition to our community. The owner, Mr. Cassavant, mentioned that he needed furniture for his scenario rooms. Within the large building on the property is a maze of rooms and corridors. These represent different situations police may find themselves in when conducting raids or hostage rescue. The rooms currently are empty. If you have any furniture you want to discard, they would be glad to take it for use in these rooms. Let's help make this facility a success.

— Dave Lucas

Homer Church News

HOMER CHURCHES COOPERATING

On June 28th, the Homer Churches Cooperating (HCC) sponsored the annual community worship service at Homer Park. About 80 were in attendance, with 40-50 staying for the meal. Many hands, hearts and spirits contributed to the service; we thank God and we thank them.

Currently serving on the HCC board from our four churches are: Jackie Sturdyvin, Gene Ethridge, Bill Mullins, Betty Lacey, Betty Taylor, Norma Diel, Joan Lane, David Burns, J.L. Penfold and Jim Swathwood. Check our brochure for activities and programs.

On Saturday, July 18th, the HCC operated the Pepsi stand for the Tara Jenkins Benefit. Thanks to all who helped. Check out our window at Wakefield Plumbing. We are making plans for the Singspiration to be held on Saturday, September 13th at the park. Mark your calendars. Ideas and suggestions are always considered.

— Jim Swathwood

The one serious conviction that a man should have is that nothing is to be taken too seriously.

— Samuel Butler

Welcome New Residents

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Homer Library News

One June 26th, approximately 60 people enjoyed a program with Ronald McDonald, as a kick-off for the Summer Reading Program. Ronald McDonald introduced the theme of Dive Into Books to get the children excited about reading and participating in our summer program, which was presented by Sheri Burns on Fridays in July. Sheri held two sessions each week, one in the morning for the preschoolers and one in the afternoon for the grade school children.

The library now has a fax machine which is available to the public whenever the library is open. The cost is only 15 cents per page for outgoing and incoming faxes.

A lot of new books have been placed in the library recently as donations. We have the latest set of Larry Gnagey's stories, which can be enjoyed by both children and adults. Several new junior books on nature have been donated as a memorial to Lester Elliott, a local resident who was known for his promotion of Mokey Bear, and who loved to share books and nature with children. The American Legion Auxiliary has placed two new books in honor of their Gold Star members: Gifts from Nature and The Pirate at 50, about Jimmy Buffett. The Champaign-Urbana Herb Society has one again donated for the purchase of herb-related books. The title or titles are not available at press time, but stop in and find out what they are.

From the Secretary of State's office comes Cyber Driver, a game on CD-ROM for new and soon-to-be drivers to help familiarize them with the Rules of the Road. Kids, come in and try it out!

We very much appreciate all of the above-named books, as well as all donations. Many individuals have given us books that we have been able to place on the shelves. Other donated books will be sold at our book sale to help raise funds for various needs in the library.

We work hard to keep the library up-to-date and to serve the needs and interests of the people of Homer. We appreciate your patronage and your input.

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Attorney
896-2214
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Homer, IL 61849

Marilyn K. Lee

Attorney
896-2379
999CR, 2500E
Homer, IL 61849

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Homer, IL 61849

Homer Elevator

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Homer, IL 61849

Pioneer Seed Company,

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2546 C.R. 1050 N.
Homer, IL 61849

Vineyard Seed Company

896-2361
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Homer, IL 61849

Homer Automotive

896-2028
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Homer, IL 61849

BUSINESS/OTHER

Jim Bell/T-Shirt Printing

896-2018
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Homer, IL 61849

Cilco

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Homer, IL 61849

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Easton Cable Systems

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Boring, Backhoe & Trenching
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Ely Furniture & Design

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Homer, IL 61849

The Gamer's/War Games

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Harold's Welding/Fabrication

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Homer, IL 61849

Homer Auction

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Homer, IL 61849

Homer Car Wash

110 W. Main Street
Homer, IL 61849

Jim's Bobcat Service/Jim

Lacey
896-2747
710 S. Church
Homer, IL 61849

Kirby Funeral Home

896-2323
708 S. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

Main Street Flower Shop

896-2379
403 S. Main
Homer, IL 61849

Miller Aquatics/Health Club

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CHURCHES

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896-2533
201 N. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

St. Charles Borromeo

Catholic Church
896-2021
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United Methodist Church

896-2038
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Homer, IL 61849

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Dons' Electric

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United Fuel Company

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Homer, IL 61849

Delores Richard/Hairdresser

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Homer, IL 61849

Lori's Hairdesign

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ORGANIZATIONS

Homer Masonic Lodge

104 E. Wabash St.
Homer, IL 61849

Homer Lions Club

c/o Secretary
604 W. 3rd St.
Homer, IL 61849

American Legion Post 290

P.O. Box 134
Homer, IL

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Homer, IL 61849

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Homer, IL 61849

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Ingram's Nursery &

Landscaping
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1267 C.R. 2500 E.
St. Joseph, IL 61873

Wilson Farms

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Homer, IL 61849

Please contact
Kim Matthis at 896-2689
with changes, deletions
or additions to this
directory.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN HOMER

Farmer's Table Restaurant, \$75,000. Jim Clingan Auction & Realty, Inc. 469-2500.

Dr. Mark Faught's Dental office building, 840 sq ft, brick, central air, 2 1/2 lots, adjacent to school. \$39,000. Wolf Real Estate. 896-2253.

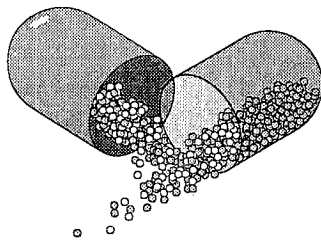
The Bait Barn, 1.8 acres, 5 bedroom, 2700 square feet, brick building, central air, 2 car attached garage, 1200 sq ft barn, 900 sq ft concrete floor shed. \$135,000. Wolf Real Estate. 896-2253.

The Card Shop, 105 S. Main St., \$6,500. Janet Driver 896-2617

Homer Car Wash, 110 N. Main St., \$20,000. Wolf Real Estate 896-2253

Faye's Fashions, 109 S. Main Street, 1817 square feet \$39,900. Century 21 Real Estate

If you would like to list a business or building for sale in Homer, please contact Kim Matthis at 896-2689 or Stan Cato at the Homer IGA. (No charge for this service.)



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Business of the Month

BY NAOMI ROBERTS

Don's Automotive

Don's Automotive, located at 202 N. Main Street in Homer, is owned and operated by Donald Happ. Happ has been in the automotive business 16 years. Don's Automotive offers a convenience store, gas station, 24 hour emergency towing and a full line of truck and auto parts for his vehicle repair service. Happ also specializes in emergency vehicle repair (fire trucks and ambulances). You can contact Don's Automotive by phone at 896-2817. Business hours are 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday and Saturday 6:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sunday the gas station and convenience store are open from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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Krazy Daze ? Name Change

The Homer Recreation board has been discussing the possibility of changing the name of Krazy Daze. It has been suggested that having amore specific name would give a unifying theme to the day, also that it might attract more people. Others say it has been "Krazy Daze" for a long time and should remain such, that it is unique to Homer.

Back in the 1950's we had the fall festival sponsored by the Lion's club. Later the Lion's gave up the fall festival and the merchants created Krazy Daze to fill the void. It is my understanding that originally the merchants and residents dressed in "Krazy" costumes. Even before the fall festival, there was something by a different name.

Now the Recreation board is the group sponsoring the event. As such, the Recreation board has decided to poll you, the residents of Homer, for your ideas about it. Please fill out the survey below and turn in at Driscoll's Pharmacy by August 25th or mail to the Homer Recreation Board, P.O. Box 74, Homer, IL 61849.

Thanks for helping us.

Meredith Emert, Recreation board Secretary

Homer Recreation Board

S U R V E Y

- Keep Krazy Daze name
- Change Krazy Daze name

Suggested new names:

- Fall Festival
- Harvest Festival

My suggestion: _____

Comments: _____

Auxiliary News

The American Legion Auxiliary - Unit #290 met at the post home on June 8th. Seventeen members were present.

President Chris Jones announced that the first place winner of the Americanism Essay Contest for the 9th and 10th grade, Adam Bear has won 3rd place in the 19th district.

Members reported 92 hours of volunteerism for the month of May.

The unit will be sponsoring a Community Blood Drive during Krazy Daze from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The unit received word that Illini Girls State Delegate, Chantel McGarigle, has been chosen to represent the State of Illinois at Girls Nation in Washington, D.C.

The Junior unit has planted flowers at the Homer Historical Society. They will be maintaining the flower bid as a service project. The unit would like to thank the Juniors for their great help at the Memorial Day Services and smorgasbord.

We went to the Ribeye restaurant on July 13th for the past presidents supper. Outgoing President Chris Jones was honored at the supper.

Poppy Chairman, Sandy Griffin reported that the unit received \$680 in donations during Poppy Days. This money will be used for the Veterans.

There was no meeting in July.

The unit worked with the Legion and S.A.L. serving food at the open house held at the S.W.A.T. training course on July 12th.

Chris announced that the unit served 184 people at our annual Memorial Day Smorgasbord. She thanked all members for their donations and help.

The unit sent three delegates and two alternates to the Department Auxiliary Convention which was held in Springfield July 16th through 19th.

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Homer Homemakers Extension News

On June 4th, a long time project was completed by the Homer Homemakers Extension Unit. In December, money was raised by holding a housewalk, and in March, permanent planters were ordered for Main Street. The planters arrived in Homer, from Paxton, on May 29th and members enjoyed planting the flowers on June 4th.

Extension members wish to thank Don Happ for delivering the planters, May Lucas, Jim Hopper, Gary Smith and Stan Cato for their help with the planters and Bruce Wicks for donating the cost of the flowers. Despite wind, heavy rain, cold and heat, the flowers are flourishing and members are very pleased with the new look on Main Street with the new planters in place.

Members met May 22nd at the Community Building for a lesson given by Elvira Wakefield on "Achieving and Maintaining a Healthy Body Composition". On June 19th, the group traveled to the Country Thyme Tea Room in Paxton, for a delightful luncheon and some shopping. Lois Horner was a guest.

On June 25th, members met at the home of Ruth Taylor to begin planning for the second annual "Christmas at Home" celebration and housewalk. Homeowners are being contacted at this time and there will be more details about the walk in the next newsletter. Be sure to set aside December 5th, 1998 for another beautiful Christmas walk.

July 4th brought the Homemakers to Homer Park for their annual "Pie by the Slice" sale, which was very successful.

July 17th, the extension traveled to Danville for a trip through the Vermillion County Museum Quilt show and a luncheon.

New members are welcome to extension at any time. Contact either Virginia Baird at 896-2207 or Mary Ann Rohl at 896-2270 or any Home Extension member.



Planting flowers on Main Street in the new planters are (l-r) Co-chairmen Mary Ann Rohl and Virginia Baird and member Ruth Taylor

Homer Household

BY NORMA DIEL

Easy Beef Stew

2 lb. beef cubes
1 large onion, sliced thin
6 stalks of celery, cut in bite size
8 carrots
1 tbsp. salt
3 large potatoes
1 tbsp. sugar
6 tbsp. minute tapioca
2 1/2 cups tomato juice
2 tbsp. soy sauce

Layer ingredients in order give (except potatoes) in roaster pan. Cover tightly with foil. Bake 250 degrees for four hours. One half hour before done, add potatoes. Serves eight.

Yum Yum Salad

1 can cherry pie filling
1 can crushed pineapple (drained)
1 cup marshmallows
1 8 oz. carton Kool Whip
1 can Eagle Brand milk
nuts

Mix all together. Chill and serve.

Quick Apple Crisp

4 cups sliced cooking apples
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1/3 cup sifted flour
1 cup Quaker Oats (quick old fashioned, uncooked)
1/2 cup brown sugar

Place apples in shallow baking dish. Sprinkle with lemon juice. Combine dry ingredients, and add melted butter. Mix until crumbly. Sprinkle crumb mixture on top of apples. Bake 30 minutes at 375 degrees. Serve warm or cold.

Do what you can
with what you have
where you are.

— Theodore Roosevelt

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

From the Red Skelton Hour, January 14, 1969

I remember this one teacher. To me, he was the greatest teacher, a real sage of my time. He had such wisdom. We were all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and he walked over. Mr. Lasswell was his name. He said, "I've been listening to you boys and girls recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester and it seems as though it is becoming monotonous to you. If I may, may I recite it and try to explain to you the meaning of each word?"

I — me, an individual, a committee of one

PLEDGE — dedicate all of my wordly goods to give without self-pity

ALLEGIANCE — my love and my devotion

TO THE FLAG — Our Standard, Old Glory, a symbol of freedom. Wherever she waves, there is respect because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts freedom is everybody's job.

OF THE UNITED — that means that we have all come together

STATES — individual communities that have united into 48 great states. 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose, all divided with imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common purpose, and that is love for country.

OF AMERICA

AND TO THE REPUBLIC — a state in which sovereign power is invested in representatives chosen by the people to govern. And government is the people and it's *from* the people *to* the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

FOR WHICH IT STANDS.

ONE NATION — meaning, so blessed by God

INDIVISIBLE — incapable of being divided

WITH LIBERTY — which is freedom and the right of power to live one's own life without threats or fear or some sort of retaliation

AND JUSTICE — the principle or quality of dealing fairly with other

FOR ALL — which means it is as much your country as it is mine.

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance....."UNDER GOD".

Wouldn't it be a pity if some said, "That's a prayer" and that would be eliminated from schools, too?

—Red Skelton

"Splinters" from the board

Just as many of you, the Homer Community Development Board (CDB), has had a busy summer. The following is a summary of projects we have completed and those that are in the completion process.

Have you seen the new planters that line the Main Street of downtown Homer? They match the trash receptacles that were put in place last year through the direction of the CDB and the cooperation of many organizations and citizens of Homer. Yes, there are many people in the town of Homer who care about their community and its growth. You can be part of the effort to rebuild the community, just tell any board member that you would like to help. We would like to thank the Homer Home Extension, Historical Society, Homer Village board and Mike and Stacey Johnson for financing the planters. We would also like to thank Don Happ (who seems to always be willing to give a hand) for his help in transporting the planters from Paxton. And last, but certainly not least, Bruce Wicks for the purchase of the flowers for the planters.

With the help of village consultant, Pam Anderson, the CDB created a vision statement which reads as follows:

"Through broad participation among Homer citizens and the community, we will be united together for pride, planned progress, and the quality of life unique to our rural setting. The village of Homer will be committed to shaping its own future, developing leadership in people of all ages, and serving the needs, interests and values of current and future generations. The future of Homer will emphasize an interconnectedness among its citizens, as well as maintaining a clean, safe environment. The development of well-informed citizenry, that enhances our future growth and prosperity, will be the foundation of our community."

Valecia Crisafulli of the *Illinois Main Street* program made a presentation to our group, explaining the program and the success stories of some surrounding towns. This is an Illinois program which assists towns with their revitalization efforts.

The needs assessment survey was mailed to randomly selected Homer households in March. We had a 50+% response rate from those selected. The village board will be presenting the results in October at a town meeting.

We are in the process of developing a Realtors brochure which will contain facts and figures about our town. These brochures will be available to individuals interested in locating in Homer.

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WE'RE IN YOUR HOMETOWN!

In an effort to promote local people for local employment, we are establishing an employment bulletin board at the village hall. This would be used by employers to list local jobs available in the area so that we might employ more local people in our businesses. Local business should take advantage of this opportunity to list jobs at no charge.

A CDB committee has been working on a CCI application and should have it finished and sent in for approval by August 1st. CCI stands for "Competitive Communities Initiative," which is a state assisted program. The program helps communities conduct a rigorous local self-assessment, linked to a written action plan that identifies the communities goals, priorities and the action to take to attain these goals. Each community who qualifies will have a specialist working with them to help provide the action plan and identify private and government agencies to provide technical assistance and resources.

Many residents have expressed interest in a bike path for the Homer area. Spencer Ely is now gathering information regarding grants for a possible bike path from Homer to Homer Lake.

The deadline to submit information for the October *News & Views* is September 10th. You may drop off your information at the Homer IGA, mail to the CDB, P.O. Box 74, Homer, IL 61849, or email "kim_matthis@rsmi.com"

The CDB meets the second Monday of each month at the Village Hall at 8:00 P.M. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings.

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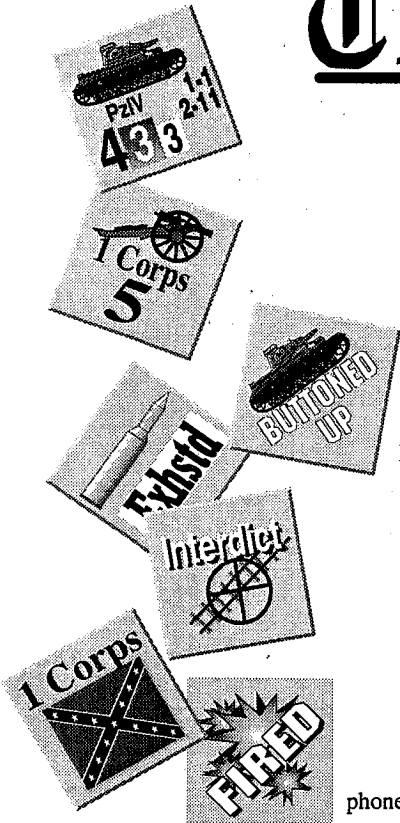
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