

HOMER



August, 2001

News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD



FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

— by Naomi Roberts

David Roberts *Upholstery & Furniture Repair*

Four years ago, David Roberts began a part-time upholstery and furniture repair business. Roberts works nights and weekend on furniture repair while maintaining a full time job at the University of Illinois. For almost 30 years, Roberts has maintained work as an Instrument Maker. As an Instrument Maker, Roberts is no stranger to precision work, so four years ago when he began to think about an after retirement job, upholstery was the natural step. In a way it isn't a far leap from what he does as a machinist. He takes things apart and rebuilds them. Sometimes he must begin from just one or two pieces and reconstruct an entire piece of furniture, such as a table or chair.

One of the most challenging jobs he has done was to reconstruct an antique roll-top desk. When he picked it up from the customer, it was so dilapidated it came apart and he actually carried it out of the residence in pieces. Of course when he

returned the desk, it was once again a solid, like new piece of furniture.

In the upholstery end of the business, Roberts has done sofas, chairs, ottomans, cushions for patio furniture and swings, as well airplane, boat and car seats. Roberts uses several upholstery material suppliers, such as Birch Company and Mayer-Paetz. From his material suppliers, Roberts is able to offer many types of material from nylon fabrics to velvets, and even leather and vinyls. Of course the colors and patterns are numerous too. He can get stripes, plaids, flowers, tapestries, or solid colors. Roberts is not in the business to make money from the sale of material. He charges the customer exactly what he is charged by the factory, plus the shipping. Roberts makes his income from his labor only. He does not charge by the hour, he charges \$35.00 a yard.

One of the things that Roberts likes most about his business is the opportunity to meet new people. He has served customers in St. Joseph,

Allerton and Homer. He picks up and delivers and also does on site job quotes. In the short time he has been in business, he has met many kind and friendly people.

Roberts enjoys the opportunity to see the period changes in furniture. An interesting point about upholstery work is the change in how a sofa or recliner is made. Many years ago tacks held the material to the sofa. Tacks and hammers were the number one choice in tools. Now, an air operated staple gun and flex-trim strips with small teeth-like grippers and tack strips hold the material in place. Once Roberts has made the job quote and has the piece of furniture in his shop, he begins by stripping off the old fabric. He uses the old pieces of fabric as patterns to cut out the new material. Most generally, this is a fairly simple task, but once in a while the fabric is so old and well worn that the material has been stretched until it becomes more difficult to use as a

(cont'd on page 4)

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

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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

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- 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

- Ray Cunningham, President 896-2558
- Greg Knott, Treasurer 896-2348
- Becky Smith 896-2722
- Kevin Knott 896-3276
- Bobbi Gordon 896-2585
- Brett Barnhart
- Pat Butler 896-2657

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 Swathwood 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

- Becky Smith, President 896-2722
- Charlotte Brown, Secretary 582-2056
- Pat Butler, Treasurer 896-2657
- Bill Butler 896-2657
- Tim Kirby 896-2323
- Helen Krukeweitt 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
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. 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

Wilson Tree Farms



Every year, Wilson Tree Farms puts Christ back in Christmas. This is a must for Charlie and Teresa Wilson, and it can be seen in the large letters in their signs advertising CHRISTmas Trees, as well as in their loving attitude towards their customers and employees. Charlie and Teresa have enjoyed their tree farm for the past 10 to 12 years and plan on many more years of enjoyment to come. Charlie says he looks forward to seeing the children run up and down the row of trees in search of the perfect one for Christmas. He says, "No one yells at them. They just laugh and run and jump and have a good time." They also get a chance to see nature and wildlife, such as deer, rabbits, or pheasants, up close. Of course the kittens are always a favorite.

Charlie is a family man with vision. His business is family owned and operated with the help of his children and grandchildren. Years ago, because of his love and concern for his own family, Charlie was able to see the needs single parents faced during the holidays.

Originally, Wilson Tree Farms opened the weekend after Thanksgiving, but that changed after a single-parent came the weekend before Thanksgiving wanting desperately to buy a Christmas tree so his children could also have Christmas while they were visiting him for Thanksgiving. He didn't want to miss Christmas with them, but it wasn't his turn to have them at Christmas. Charlie not only helped him, but he changed his time schedule in order to help other single-parents with the same need.

Beginning Saturday, November 18th, until Christmas Day, Wilson Tree Farms will be open 9-6 every Saturday, and Noon to 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. Tree shoppers can go to the patch and cut your own, or you can buy a pre-cut tree, or you can dig up a tree if you prefer to plant it in your own yard. Charlie provides the cutting and digging tools. He also provides a deer drag to haul the tree out of the nursery. He also shakes the dead needles from the tree and bails it so there is no mess in your vehicle.

On Wilson's 26 acres, there are more than 35,000 trees in various stages of growth. A tree can't really be sold as a Christmas tree until it is six to seven years old. When the Scotch Pines get to be 12 to 14 years old, Charlie cuts them down and uses them for greenery in wreaths, swags, and table decorations. Some people don't understand why Charlie would cut down trees to use for greenery, but it is part of the process of tree farming. Since the life of the tree is pretty much over at that age, it is better to utilize the greenery than to let it die and never be used. Trees are a crop to Charlie just like corn and beans are crops to farmers.

Like farmers, Charlie must tend to his crop too. It isn't a plant the trees and let God do the rest situation. Charlie's trees are top grade, because of his continuing education in the care of trees. Every year, Charlie and Teresa attend a Christmas Tree convention, which keeps him abreast of the latest tree care technology. Charlie complies with all government regulations; and his trees are inspected every year by the University of Illinois Entomology department. He has never had a problem with insects.

Every summer the trees must be sheered in order to shape them into a Christmas tree. Of course the tree's shape depends on the ideal tree the sheerer has in mind. What is one person's idea of a perfect Christmas tree is something else for another person. Charlie always asks his customers if they chose the perfect tree, and their answer is always, "Yes," but Charlie sometimes wonders why they chose the one they did. The answer of course is a difference in vision.

Vision is what makes Wilson Tree Farms a successful business. Charlie has vision in regards to his customer's need, as well as vision in regards to his workers. Each year he employs approximately a dozen people. Some are family

(cont'd on page 4)

DAVID ROBERTS *(cont'd from page 1)*

pattern. Once the material is cut out, then it must be sewn together on a heavy duty upholstery sewing machine. Most people think that Robert's wife Naomi does the sewing, but that isn't true. Roberts does all the sewing and upholstering work. Naomi only helps him in the refinishing part of the business, which is the part Roberts dislikes. His wife strips the furniture and Roberts stains and refinishes the piece. Roberts dislikes the refinishing part the least because there are so many variables that can effect the outcome. The color of the stain must be exact, which can be tricky when trying to match another piece of furniture. The weather also plays a major part of the refinishing. The temperature must be above 65°, but no hotter than 85°, otherwise the clear lacquer, or polyurethane finish will not dry correctly. Refinishing is a seasonal part of the business. But no matter whether it is upholstery, or refinishing, or just repairing furniture, Roberts takes great pride in checking every detail to ensure a beautiful end result.

David Roberts Upholstery and Furniture Repair is located at 306 S. Caroline. You can call him at 896-2095. Be sure you leave a message. He is always looking for new customers. ■

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WILSON TREE FARMS *(cont'd from page 3)*

members, but some are women who have small children in school and can only work during those hours. The women sort of set their own hours.

Charlie is also good about seeing who does what job best and enjoys doing it. One of his employees likes to do nothing but cut greenery. It works for the employee and Charlie. Another employee, Roxy Pruitt, makes all of the wreaths. Roxy began making wreaths after she made one for herself. Charlie always allow his employees to take home a tree, or a wreath, but they have to make their own wreath. When Charlie saw the talent Roxy has, he suggested she make all of the wreaths. Again, Charlie's ability to see the talent and skill in one of his workers proved to be profitable as well as enjoyable. Roxy makes all sizes of wreaths, from 8-36 inches. This, of course is the ring size. The actual wreath extends out approximately four inches more.

Teresa makes all the bows for the wreaths, swags, grave blankets, and table decorations. Customers can order any of these items in advance, and customize them. Just let them know what you want when you call. (896-2160)

If you want to do business with people who care about their product as well as their workers and customers, stop by Wilson Tree Farms some Saturday for a cup of hot cider and all your Christmas decorating needs. ■

— H O M E R —

COUNTRY MARKET

Open 7 A.M. – 9 P.M. Daily

- Groceries, Meat & Produce
- Fresh Donuts Baked Daily
- Video Rental
- Film Processing
- Rug Shampoo Rental
- Friendly Hometown Service

WE'RE IN YOUR HOMETOWN!

HOMER'S GREATEST GENERATION

PART VIII — RUSSELL SHOAF

— by Chris Reel —

As a child, Russell Shoaf lived in the jail house for four years. That's because his father was Champaign County Sheriff at the time. Russell was born in Ontario, Canada. When he was three, the family moved back to the United States and lived on West John Street in Champaign until his father was elected sheriff. Following his stint as sheriff, the family moved east of Homer, and Russell transferred from Thornburn Junior High School to Walnut Grove School. He graduated from Homer High School in 1941.

Following his marriage to Elnora Bowen in 1942, he enlisted in the Marine Corps because he wanted to contribute to the war effort. He said that the bombing of Pearl Harbor made everyone mad, including himself. He was also concerned that Hitler needed to be stopped. While Russell was unable to get into the Air Corps, he never regretted serving as a Marine.

He signed up in Danville and was inducted in Chicago. That did not go smoothly. He didn't have a birth certificate. He was born in Canada, and the doctor who attended his birth had died. Russell called his mother, who put together enough evidence of his American citizenship that he was finally able to join the Marines. He was told he could train for either line duty or cooks and messman. He didn't want anything to do with kitchen work, so he chose line duty and found out that it meant infantry.

Following boot camp in San Diego,

he had one leave. Elnora took the train to California and stayed with him for a week. She said the train was so crowded that she had to sit on her suitcase all the way to Kansas City. It was a boost to Russell's spirits to have her there for that time.

Russell had more training at Camp Pendleton, California and shipped out



for New Zealand for six months training in general warfare. They traveled on a Liberty ship. The weather was rough and everyone was seasick. The food was good, but odd. For example, they had baked beans and sweet rolls for breakfast every Wednesday. Russell came to look forward to this unusual combination. Aside from homesickness, Russell enjoyed his training. He was kept busy in scouting, sniper and survival training. He thought it was

quite interesting. Russell was in the Third Division, Ninth Marines, E Company, Third Platoon.

Elnora was good about writing while Russell was overseas. It often took the mail quite a while to catch up with the men, but when it did, there was a lot for Russell. One package stood out in his mind. His dad had had a forty-five automatic, and Russell wanted one, too. As a weapon, it couldn't be shipped through the mail. But someone, possibly a policeman, told Elnora that it would go through if she would insure it as silverware, or something similar. She did, and Russell got his forty-five.

Major holidays were made as special as possible for the troops. When Seabees (Naval construction battalions) were in the area, they took good care of the Marines. They knew how to get things done, always had anything they wanted and would feed anyone in the area. They even managed to have ice cream. On Guadalcanal, troops would hitchhike a ride for the twenty miles trip to the Seabees camp.

Russell's division was in reserve at Guadalcanal, but wasn't needed there. The First and Second Divisions had things pretty well subdued. Most of the time they were there, the Third Division just did more training. When they did search for Japanese resisters, they seldom found any. Guadalcanal was so damp, that water would be six to eight inches deep everywhere. The only dry places were the bunks. Anything that wasn't tied down

would float away. Shoes and socks stayed damp all the time. It was too damp to hang anything out to dry. The soldiers could get salve or iodine for sores on their feet, but that was almost useless due to the dampness. The sores caused scars that never went away. Russell also contracted malaria while in the South Pacific, but never had a recurrence.

While on maneuvers on a little island, they were practicing landings from an LTV (landing track vehicle) with full battle packs on. The ramp would not go down to let the men out, so they had to jump out. Just as Russell jumped the LTV drove over a coconut tree, which tipped the vehicle, so that Russell had a jump of about eighteen feet. He hit hard and hurt his back with the pack, but got up and kept going. He went to sick bay for his back, but was told that everyone had a bad back. He wasn't given a disability rating for his back when he left the service. Many years later, at Hinds Hospital in Chicago, he was told that a lot of veterans would show up in November and spend the winter in the hospital with back problems.

Later the Third Division was sent to Bougainville, where they were charged with keeping the airfield intact for planes that used it as a base to bomb other Japanese islands. To get from one side of the island to the other, the Japanese had to go through a mountain pass. The Americans had a line of anti-aircraft guns along the pass. Word of Japanese moving through the pass was relayed from planes overhead to the gunners. They would lay down a barrage of gunfire that lasted for up to two days at a time. The sound of the constant shelling made it hard for ground troops to do anything

else. They couldn't sleep; they couldn't do anything.

While at Bougainville, Russell's squad was sent to get food on the day of one of the biggest air raids in the Pacific. Ninety-five out of one hundred Japanese zeros (carrier launched fighter planes) were shot down that day. Bullets were flying everywhere, planes were dropping out of the sky, and Russell decided to take cover in a muddy foxhole. As the action slowed down, Russell turned to the Marine next to him to comment on the show, and realized that he was sharing the foxhole with Bob Hill from back home. They had quite a good visit there in that muddy foxhole.

The beaches of Bougainville had a lot of Higgins boats (a type of landing craft). They had been wrecked, bombed or strafed. But the machine guns on them were still usable. On a trip to carry supplies and ammunition to the troops, Russell and some other soldiers brought back a working machine gun and hid it in their bunker. There were regular weapons companies in the area, but Russell's company wasn't one of them and wasn't supposed to have a machine gun.

One day word arrived that all the machine guns would be test fired. Russell decided to test fire his to see how it would work. Soon after he fired it, a cease fire was called. Commanding Officer John A. Petak crawled up to Russell's foxhole and dove in, with a cigar hanging from his mouth. He demanded to know where the illegal machine gun came from. Russell thought he would get in trouble but nothing came of it. It wasn't funny at the time, but later Russell thought of it like a Laurel and Hardy movie.

After securing the island, Russell and his fellow Marines were sent to

Guadacanal for rest and rehabilitation. From there, they went to Guam, where landing craft set them down on the beach. They had to climb a high ridge and cross rice paddies. If they had remained on the beach, they would have been easy targets for the Japanese. So they made a run for it, up over the ridge and through the rice paddies. The paddies were in squares, filled with about one and a half feet of water with ridges all around. The men were trying to run through them. Russell felt something warm run down his leg and thought he had been hit. But it was water from his canteen, which had taken a shot.

Realizing that he could have been hit instead of his canteen, Russell took off running. The troops reached the foothills, got secured and dug in. Each day they moved forward, setting up defenses as they went.

It was unbearably hot; Russell sweated a lot. The men carried salt tablets. Russell had been putting them in his canteen at night, but now he had run out of them. On his third day in Guam he got heat exhaustion, had trouble breathing and his body turned red. Medics took him to a hospital ship, which took him to a hospital on New Caledonia, where he spent a month recovering.

By this time, he had been in the South Pacific for about thirty months. The Navy doctor decided to send him back to the States.

He spent thirty days in a hospital in San Francisco. Following thirty days leave, he became the rifle range coach at Quantico, Virginia, training Navy pilots. Elnora was able to join him, and their daughter Cheryl was born at Quantico. Her birth cost the family about \$7. Russell was pleased with the level of care at this and every other Navy hospital he saw.

After he had been there for a year, he was slated to go to Japan. He feared that if he went, he would never make it back home. Word came of the dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima and Russell knew the war was over. Russell felt at the time that dropping the bomb was the right decision, and he never changed his mind about it. It probably saved his life and many others.

He was officially discharged from the service in November, 1945. Russell left the service as a corporal, but was an acting sergeant most of the time. It was cheaper and created less paper-work for the Marine Corps to let someone function at a higher level without giving him the rank.

Following a year as a farmer, Russell served as Homer's postmaster for six years. He then transferred to a better paying job as a rural carrier. After retiring from the postal service at age 55, he worked as a salesman in the paint and roofing business for many years, starting with Tropical Paint and Roofing. He was once named Salesman of the Year, and he sold the coating for the Assembly Hall.

Russell died on August 13, 1999, and is survived by his wife Elnora, daughter Cheryl, two grandchildren, Brent and Heather, and three great-grandchildren. ■

**CHAMPAIGN COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
PROGRAMS FOR AUGUST** — *Sallie Veibman*



NATURALIST SERIES

**Elk's Lake Pavilion
Lake of the Woods County Park, Mahomet, IL
6:30 PM**

Join area scientists for three evening of nature studies. Registration requested. Must be over 16 years old. (Families with small children are asked to attend Amphitheatre or Summer Saturday Programs.

**Saturday, August 4th
ILLINOIS TURKEY**

Presented by Patrick Huber, Illinois Natural History Survey
Includes an outdoor radio-telemetry search.

**Saturday, August 18th
AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES OF ILLINOIS**

*Presented by Dan Olson, University of Illinois,
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science*
Includes outdoor frog call identification lab.

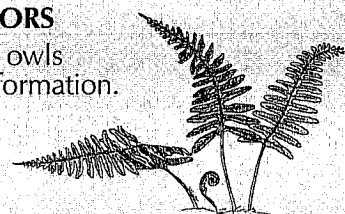
AMPHITHEATRE PROGRAMS

Middle Fork River Forest Preserve, Penfield, IL
(Meet at amphitheatre) 8:00 PM

**Saturday, August 11th
MOTHS AND BATS: NIGHTTIME VISITORS**

Plan to take a walk in the dark to call in owls after a fun evening of owl games and information.

**All Programs are FREE unless noted.
For more information visit <http://www.ccfpd.org/>
Or call the Environmental Education Department at (217) 896-2455.



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HOMER'S 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION



— by Bonnie Miller —

What a great 4th of July! I'd like to thank everyone who helped with the games, and all who helped in giving a helping hand to put it all together. I really appreciate the Homer Fire and Resue Squad for standing by with the Rescue Truck just in case of a medical emergency, you guys are the greatest, willing to give up family time to make sure everyone was safe, THANKS! Cris Jones, I Thank you for putting a lot of thought and feeling into doing the bicycle, tricycle, and wagon contest, you did a great job.

Wendy and David Robertson what a blessing you guys were, I asked at the last minute for help, and you both just jumped in and did it, you guys show me there can still be community effort in making things possible. Thanks for doing the basketball contest, creeper races, and the water balloon toss.

Mike and Stacey Johnson you did a great job again, at doing the watermelon contest. You make people just want to dig in and have fun, Thanks. Teresa Lacey what a great game of tug of war, I think tugging over the pool was really cool! Thanks. Didn't everyone enjoy the extra water balloons I know the kids did, right, Rodney Nonman!

I'd like to thank all who helped in getting things ready for the games, Joey Rice, Taylor Dodd, Josh Jenkins, and Cody Westerfield (my great nephew), you all did a mighty fine job Thanks!

Last, but by no means last, my family and friends Chris, Joe, Ben, Emilee, and April Forster, I think there probably would have been more water balloons but my kitchen became a war zone, and full of laughter especial-



ly from April when Chris would get sprayed from trying to get water in a balloon, and to see who could get the most water in their balloons, what great fun and enjoyment it is to have laughter in the home they had tons of fun.

Then there's the farmers, who donated straw to make the sand box a little safer for our little ones, Thanks Bob Bryan, Jim Nonman, and Harold Reed you guys are great! Oh Yeah I can't forget, the best of all, my husband, and great community server, Bub, Thanks for all you did you're the BEST.

Thanks to the Rec. Board for furnishing the ribbons for the games I appreciate it, it help to cut down on my cost. I hope next year is bigger and better, or just as good there was a good turn out and that's what makes it worth the effort, and knowing our community still wants to make things happen right here in our own Home Town! It was a Great Day in every way, celebrating our Holiday, and being with others from our own community. You're a great Town Homer!! ■

HOMER'S 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

Now then, on to the winners!!!

BICYCLE DECORATING

Cheyenne McDuffe: 1st Place
 Jennifer Bundy: 1st Place
 Jessica Bundy: 1st Place
 Ethan Stanfield: 1st Place

WAGON DECORATING

Autumn Johnston: 1st Place
 Josie Hopper, Emilee Miller, and Ben Miller: 1st Place.
 There were no 2nd or 3rd Place winners. Everyone listed were the only entries.

BASKETBALL CONTEST

4-7 yr. Olds	8-12 yr. Olds	12 & older
1st: Zach Pierce	1st: Dajun Harris	1st: Jay Miller
2nd: Kolby Brown	2nd: Matthew Barnes	2nd: Lance Kingston
3rd: DJ Robertson	3rd: Zach Oscar	3rd: Ryan Barnes

CREEPER RACES

4-7 yr. Olds	8-10 yr. Olds
1st DJ Robertson	1st Devin Webb
2nd Cheyenne Mc Duffy	2nd Cody Westerfield
3rd Cheyenne Webb	3rd April Ingram
11-12 yr Olds	13 & Over
1st Katie Rumer	1st Josh Reeley
2nd Josh Beamer	2nd Shawn Robertson
3rd Zach Orwick	3rd Lance Kingston



WATERMELON CONTEST

4-7 yr. Olds	8-10 yr. Olds	11-12 yr Olds
1st Eric Johnson	1st Devin Webb	1st Carley Garrison
2nd Brandon Oscar	2nd Abbey Johnson	2nd Shawna McDuffy
3rd Jon Cunningham	3rd Jacob Orwick	3rd Casey Rudd
13-16 yr. Olds	17 & over	
1st Ben Miller	1st Devin Webb	
2nd Mike Dawson	2nd Dave Robertson	
3rd Leslie Garrison	3rd Janice Lillehammer	

WATERBALLOON TOSS

1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place
Simon Lowe	Ryan Barnes	Ryan Atteberry
Chris Sturner	Justin Awalt	Sam McGarigle





HOMER'S 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION



The July 4th Celebration at Homer Park was a huge success. This year both the Homer Recreation Board and the Homer Community Development Board sponsored the day's activities.

The festivities started off with a parade. Paul Lewis served as Grand Marshall and approximately 35 entries including scouts, cheerleaders, politicians, fire trucks, kids, etc. were involved. The parade ended at Homer Park where the American Legion led the flag raising ceremony. Shortly afterwards, Rudy Frasca flew over in his vintage World War II airplanes.

Next up was the pageant. The winners and participants were:

Baby's (Age 0-23 months)

- 1st Place: Courtney Michelle Stewert
(Daughter of Mark & Lauri Stewart, Homer)
- 2nd Place: Tierra Thomas
(Daughter of Kristen Thomas, Rantoul)
- 3rd Place: Sandra Denise Latham
(Daughter of Amy Latham, Ogden)



Tot's (Age 2-4 Years)

- 1st Place: Adrien Natash Wilson
(Daughter of Brad & Jessica Wilson, Homer)
- 2nd Place: Bailey Elizabeth Bryan
(Daughter of Bruce & Jami Bryan, Homer)
- 3rd Place: Aleah Nickelson
(Daughter of Jim & Donna Nickelson, Homer)

Junior (Age 5-13 Years)

- 1st Place: Mckenzie Nickelson
(Daughter of Jim and Donna Nickelson, Homer)
- 2nd Place: Bridget Barnhart
(Daughter of Brett & Holly Barnhart, Homer)
- 2nd Place: April Ingram
(Daughter of Dave & Wendy Robertson, Homer)
- 3rd Place: Cheyanne Thomas
(Daughter of Kristen Thomas, Rantoul)



Senior (Age 14-18)

- 1st Place: Anastasia Harold
(Daughter of Donna Tanner-Harold, Robert Harold, Urbana)



The talent show featured many area performers, and the winners were:

Junior (Age 0-13)

- 1st Place: Camile Beamer/The E. C. Elite Junior Mini's Stars, Homer
- 2nd Place: Casey Calentine, Oakland
- 3rd Place: Kristina, Astley Robertson & April Ingram, Homer

Senior (Age 14-25)

- 1st Place: Brenda Cain, Philo
- 2nd Place: Eric Finch, Bonney Lake, Washington

Open (Age 26 & up)

- 1st Place: Mary Jo Renfrow, Champaign
- 2nd Place: Mary Jo Renfrow, Champaign
- Crowd Pleaser: Brenda Cain, Philo



NEW FROM THE HOMER RECREATION BOARD

— by Daniel Gordon —

Many thanks go to Bonnie Miller and the time spent on putting together the games for the 4th of July celebration. Thank you CDB for doing a GREAT show all day long and thank you vendors for making such great food. The Recreation Board is always looking for great new members to help participate in community wide events. If you are interested come to our relaxed meeting atmosphere on the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Village Hall conference room.



RAFFLE TICKETS AT HOMER 500 SPEEDWAY DURING AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

We are half way through the Drag Race Season and everything looks to be going better than expected. The community wide participation has encouraged the racers and they look forward to putting on more shows for you during August and September. We are looking forward to exciting crowd participation events during the August & September races as well so watch the papers and plan on attending. As always spectators are free and while you are there support our local Homer vendors, The Boy Scouts, Lions Club, and Historical Society for a wonderful lunch and snack menu. Any questions can be answered by calling 896-2585. Happy Race Season! ■

What is any celebration without being able to eat. Special thanks to the Homer Lions Club, Homer Historical Society, Homer Home Extension and the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts for serving up some excellent food.

In the afternoon there were kids games that were arranged by Bonnie Miller.

Freddy Smith and Larry Roberts assisted all day long with the pageant, talent show and then entertained the crowd with some great music of their own. Many thanks for your hard work and to Kent Krukewitt who provided the stage.

Several hundred people ended the 4th celebration by watching the fireworks display. This year music was added as the Boom Boom Boys from Tolono shot off the fireworks.

Hope you all enjoyed the July 4th celebration and get ready for next year. ■

FROM THE MAYOR

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

The Fourth of July parade, activities at the park and fireworks this year were great. It appeared that everyone had a good time and Homer should be proud of its contribution to this national celebration. I want to personally thank everyone in the Rec. Board and the Community Development Board who helped to make this event a success. I also want to thank all the other volunteers and participants who came out for the activities at the park and the fireworks. It was great fun watching the kids playing in the water park, last year's volunteer effort. Slowly but surely, through the efforts of these organizations, we are making Homer a great place to live and raise a family. Thanks to all who come out and give of their time and energy.

It's this kind of spirit that makes a town a community. I am currently looking for a few more good men, women (or kids) to help with another project. The big project that is coming up is the Village Hall/Library renovation. The designers and architects have done their work and now it's time to raise the money to make the plans reality. Our goal is to begin the renovation of the building next summer, it's 100th anniversary, having been built in 1902. The goal for completion is the summer of 2005, the year of Homer's Sesquicentennial. That might seem like a long time, but it really isn't. If you are interested in working with fellow citizens on this historic project or on planning the 150 year celebration, please call me or the Village office.

Several weeks ago the Village Board heard a presentation from Charles Butzow, president and architect from S.M. Altay and Associates, Inc. He and his wife presented a program called Abbeyfields Shared Housing, alternative housing for seniors. An Abbeyfield home provides a supportive family type atmosphere for seniors. The concept is to provide low cost housing through public/private partnership and volunteer efforts. Residents have their own secured rooms, furnished with their own personal items. Resident staff provides housekeeping, laundry, and two meals daily, one of which is taken in a group dining facility. The Village Board has long believed that some type of senior housing is needed for Homer. We believe that people who have spent most of their lives in Homer want to stay in Homer. As it becomes more difficult to care for the concerns of a house, many seniors have few options

available. We believe this might be a worthy project for the community.

To help look into this program, I will need a core group of interested people to study the cost, location, and feasibility of pursuing such a project. If this interest you, please call me or the Village Hall and leave your name and phone number. Dave Lucas 896-2618 or Village Office 896-2521. ■

HOMER LIBRARY NEWS

Chris' Quick Pick: Do you remember Saturday nights in town? One vehicle per family, and only Dad had a license to drive? Or sitting by the radio to hear the latest news? If so, you might enjoy John Grisham's latest, *The Painted House*. A departure from his legal thrillers, this story is set in Arkansas cotton country in the 50's.

The Summer Reading Program for 2001, **Feed Your Need to Read**, is history. We had a good time with food. The children got to make some foods, had fun with paints, learned a little about dairy and apple farming, and read lots of books. Summertime reading is so helpful to children to maintain their reading skills throughout the summer. And even though the program is over, it's still a good idea to keep children reading in the weeks left before school starts again.

Have you checked out our magazine collection? In addition to the ones we purchase, several titles are donated by local people. Forbes, MacWorld, Smithsonian and Prevention are just some of the donated magazines on the rack. ■



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HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Homer Historical Society Museum is open every Thursday from 1:30-3:30 PM. The Museum is located at 107 N. Main Street Homer.



We would like to invite you to join us at one of our meetings. We will have a slide show of the Tudor Pictures (using TV Screen) at the September meeting that starts at 7PM. Membership for a year is Student - \$5.00, Individual - \$7.50, Family - \$15.00, Life - \$250.00

MEETINGS THIS YEAR

(Meetings at Museum unless stated otherwise.)

September 4th — Bonnie Baird and Marian Edwards refreshments - 7PM

October 2nd — Shirley Cromwell and Pat Tyler refreshments - 7PM

November 6th — Jim and Eleanor Smith and Doris Hopper refreshments - 7PM

December 4th — Christmas Dinner at the City Building at 6 PM

FUNDRAISERS FOR THIS YEAR

August 25th — Sell Pop, Water, BBQ, Hot Dogs, Nachos and Cheese at the Snowmobile Races

September 22 — Sell Pop, Water, BBQ, Hot Dogs, Nachos and Cheese at the Snowmobile Races

November — Will be selling Poinsettias We need everyone to help at these fundraisers. Please see Helen Krukewitt to sign up. I thank you very much for your time.

NEEDED!

The Board needs to fill these positions. See one of the board members if you would be so kind as to take one of them. Vice President, Finance (fundraisers), Publicity, Membership, and Museum Openings.

Last issues picture was the Morrison Family.

Row 1: Unknown; Eliza Morrison; Unknown; Mrs. Oscar Morrison; Oscar Morrison. Row 2: Elijah Morrison; Mrs. Boggess; Irvin Boggess; Myrthle Morrison; Hazel Morrison, Howard Morrison. Row 3: Unknown; Harlan Morrison. ■

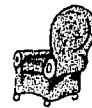
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HOMER CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE PRESBYTERIANS

On June 17, the men of the church led the service. It is gratifying to see the Lay Leadership in the congregation rise to the occasion when there is a need.

THE FOLLOWING HAVE APPEARED IN CHURCH BULLETINS:

- The outreach committee has enlisted 25 members to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- The Low Self-Esteem Support group will meet Thursday at 7 P.M. Please use the back door.
- The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- Rev. Merriweather spoke briefly, much to the delight of the congregation.
- During the absence of our pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J. F. Stubbs supplied the pulpit.
- Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be the soloist. The pastor will then speak on, "It's a Terrible Experience."
- The weekly healing service will not be held until further notice due to the pastor's illness.
- Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.
- Our high school class will present Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement. All are invited to attend this tragedy.
- Twenty-two members of the Women's Association met in the home of Mrs. Crutchfield. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.
- Potluck supper: prayer and medication to follow.
- Don't let worry get you down, let the church help.
- New choir robes are needed due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some of the older ones.
- If you enjoy sinning, join our choir.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM. Please use the large double doors at the side entrance.
- Notice printed during the pastor's illness. GOD IS GOOD; the pastor is better.
- Seriously: Does God seem far away? Who do you think moved?

HOMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Homer United Methodist Church will begin its summer schedule on August 5, 2001. Beginning that day, our regularly scheduled worship service will begin at 9 AM rather than 10:15. The early worship schedule will last through Sunday, September 2. As is our tradition, the first Sunday in August, we will hold our

worship service at the north peninsula of Homer Lake, followed by a time of fellowship, with coffee, juice and snacks provided. Our junior high youth group, Teens For Christ, will be performing a skit during this service.

On Saturday, August 18th, we will be holding our Vacation Bible School. It will be a little different this year, in that it will last only one day. This year's Vacation Bible School will be called Family Day in The Park and will be held in Homer Park from noon till 4 PM. The theme will be a carnival setting for the entire family, with kids learning about Jesus and several Bible stories through various carnival type booths and games. In addition to carnival games, there will be face painting, jugglers, and plenty of cotton candy, sno-cones, popcorn, drinks, and other carnival foods. We'll also have a time set aside to use the water park equipment, so dress appropriately. There is no charge for the Vacation Bible School and it's open to any and all children from Three years old to those entering the fifth grade this fall.

On September 9, we return to our traditional 10:15 service. Sunday school will also resume that day, beginning at 9 AM. The first day of Sunday School is designated Rally Day and Ice Cream Sunday. We'll be inviting a group to play special music for us, and between Sunday School and worship (about 9:45 to 10:15), we'll be serving ice cream sundaes to everyone present. There are classes and everyone is invited to attend.

The first Saturday of each month, at 7:30 AM, our church hosts a breakfast for all men interested in Christian fellowship. Although originally begun as the United Methodist Men, this group has reached out to men of other churches, and men with no church affiliation, resulting in its becoming more than just a United Methodist group. Any men who would like to have breakfast and join together in fellowship with other Christian men are invited to attend on August 4, at 7:30 AM.

Our church will also be participating in a Lay Leadership training event on Sunday, September 7, at the Paxton United Methodist Church. This will be a workshop dedicated to the training of all members interested in serving on the committees of the Homer United Methodist Church. This workshop will be held from 2:30-4:00. There is no charge and everyone attending will be provided with a free coffee mug and all necessary materials. ■

HOMER HOUSEHOLD

"Lunch at Homer Lake"

TACO BURGERS

1 lb. hamburger, browned & drained
 1 8-oz. can tomato sauce or tomatoes
 1 tsp. chili powder
 1 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
 1 tsp. prepared mustard
 ½ tsp. sugar
 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

¾ tsp. garlic salt
 4 large lettuce leaves
 8 hamburger buns
 Taco sauce

After browning and draining the hamburger, add the tomato sauce, chili powder, Worcestershire sauce, mustard, sugar and garlic salt to the skillet. Stir well to mix and simmer for about 10 min. to thicken. Break up the lettuce leaves and place the pieces on the bottom half of each bun. Next, place some of the hamburger filling on each bun, then top with the cheese. If you like, put a little taco sauce on next. Place the top on the bun. As you prepare the burgers, immediately wrap each one in foil and place in an insulated bag to keep them hot.

FRUIT KABOBS

Place an assortment of your favorite fruits on a wooden skewer. Suggestions: strawberries, pineapple chunks, grapes, kiwi slices, melon chunks, banana, etc. Add a marshmallow and a cherry at each end of the skewer.

SHAKE-UP SALAD

Place torn lettuce and your favorite salad ingredients in a quart-size Ziploc bag. Pour in a little of your favorite salad dressing and seal bag. Take along a paper bowl and a plastic fork. When ready for lunch, shake the bag and pour the contents into the bowl and your salad is ready.

PUDDLE OF FUDGE CAKE

1 egg
 3 T. vegetable oil
 1 pouch (10.25 oz.) fudge brownie mix
 1 box (4 serving size) chocolate fudge pudding mix (not instant)

3 T. water
 2 c. very hot water

Place the egg, brownie mix, oil and 3 T. water in an 8" or 9" pan and stir until mixed very well. Put the pudding mix and the very hot water into a medium size bowl and stir until well mixed. Carefully pour the pudding mix over the brownie batter. Bake in a 400° oven for 35-40 min. until the pudding bubbles around the edges. Your cake is now ready to eat, warm or cold. ■

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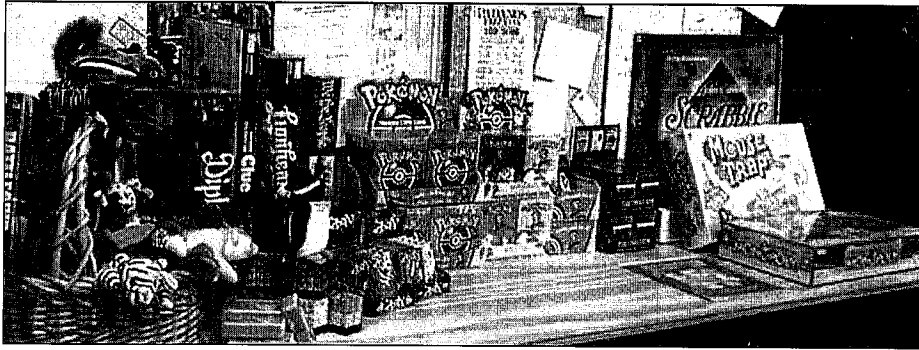
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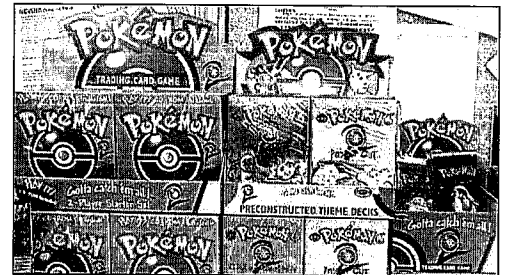
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