

DECEMBER 1996

HOMER



News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

LOOKING FOR THE BEST DEAL IN TOWN? TRY HOMER'S PUBLIC LIBRARY!

What is one of the biggest bargains in Homer? A library card! All residents of Homer are entitled to get a card at no cost. Non-residents may buy a card for only \$24.00 per year—still a bargain. What do you get with a membership? We offer a selection of the latest bestsellers and other popular new fiction and non-fiction; we have books for all ages of children.

Our family oriented video collection includes many Disney movies and other children's favorites. These are also available to cardholders at no charge. Our magazines include *Time*, *Sports Illustrated*, *People*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Redbook* and *Consumer Reports*. We have recently changed our policy to allow current issues of magazines to be checked out for one week. Past issues will continue to be checked out for two weeks. Our multimedia computer has a number of CD-ROMs with materials on them for all ages, and patrons may also use the computer for their word processing needs.

In addition to all the materials in the library, we also offer expanded inter-library loan and reference capabilities with the addition of our on-line computer. Through the Illinois State Library, we are able to offer, at no charge, access to First Search—ten bibliographic databases of journals, periodicals, and papers presented at conferences, etc., with some databases offering full text. People who have an on-line service for their computer can access First Search through several means—Prairienet, a commercial on-line service, or direct internet connection. For more information on First Search and to get the authorization number and password, see a librarian.

Our Christmas story hour will be held on Wednesday, December 11th at 10:30 a.m. Registration is required. Come in to register; or call 896-2121 during library hours.

We are pleased to announce that Jody Bryan has given the library a copy of her book of poems and devotionals. Sue Roberts assisted with the editing, and the design of the cover. Come on in and see their work!

We now have the next four books in Larry Gnagey's Family Book Series. These were provided to us by the Early American Museum in Mahomet. If you enjoyed his previous books of local history/storytelling, you'll like these too.

Several other authors of new books have a tie to Illinois. They are Karen Cushman, who was born in Chicago and wrote *The Midwife's Apprentice*; and Stella Pevsner, writer of *I'm Emma: I'm a Quint*. Ms. Pevsner was born in Lincoln, Illinois, and attended both Illinois State and Northwestern Universities.

Temple Grandin, author of *Thinking in Pictures*, has a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in animal science. She tells the fascinating story of her life in autism and how it aided her ability to design livestock-handling facilities. You may have seen her story on television.

Among our new books are several with a Christmas theme: *Certain Poor Shepherds* by Elizabeth Thomas Marshall, *This Year It Will Be Different* by Maeve Binchy, *The Special Guest* by Lee and Donna Allen, and *The Christmas Tree* by Julie Salamon, a large print edition. *The Christmas Box* is not new, but it has returned to the bestseller list.

Bestsellers recently added to our collection are: *My Gal Sunday* by Mary Higgins Clark, *M is for Malice* by Sue Grafton, *My Sergei: A Love Story* by Ekaterina Gordeeva (the skater whose husband/skating partner died last year of a heart attack), and *Slouching Towards Gomorrah* by Robert Bork.

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Head Librarian Chris Reel will gladly help you find the resources you need at the library.

Other new books of interest include *Marrying Mom* by Olivia Goldsmith, who also wrote *The First Wives Club*, and *So That Others May Live* by Herb Whittemore and Caroline Hebard, the story of her search-and-rescue dogs. She and her dogs have been all over the world, searching for victims and survivors of such disasters as earthquakes and bombings.

Finally, our new videos include *Toy Story*, *Mr. Holland's Opus*, *Sense and Sensibility*, *Father of the Bride Part II*, and *The Nutty Professor*.

The library, located in the city building at the corner of Main and First Streets, is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 am. to 2:00 p.m. As you can see from the foregoing, your Homer Library is committed to providing you with a wealth of up-to-date, relevant, and interesting materials. We can be your entry ticket to the emerging age of information, so hop aboard and enjoy the ride. ■

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AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

The American Legion Auxiliary, Homer Unit #290 meets on the second Monday of each month at the Post Home at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!

The membership requirements are:

a:) Mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of members of the American Legion. Step-relatives are also eligible.

b:) Mothers, wives, daughters, sisters, granddaughters, great-granddaughters and grandmothers of all members and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during any of the following periods:

1. World War I—service between the dates of April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918;
2. World War II—service between the dates of December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946;
3. Korean—service between the dates of June 25, 1950 to January 31, 1955;
4. Vietnam—service between the dates of December 22, 1961 to May 7, 1975;
5. Grenada/Lebanon - service between the dates of August 24, 1982 to July 31, 1984.
6. Persian Gulf—service from August 2, 1990 to end of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Government; all dates being inclusive, or who being citizens of the United States at the time of entry therein, served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during any of the said periods, and died in-the line of duty on or after honorable discharge;

c:) and to those women who of their own right are eligible to membership in the American Legion.

Junior members are those under the age of 18 years of age. Senior members are those over the age of eighteen years of age.

The Homer Unit #290 will be sponsoring a Community Blood Drive at the community building on December 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. This is a very important time of year to remember to donate so that the Community Blood Bank won't have to worry about blood shortages. Homer Unit #290 hosted the Champaign County Council meeting at the Post Home on November 6th. We voted to sponsor the Americanism Essay Contest again this year for 7th and 8th grades and High School students at Heritage schools. We also donate items to the Danville VA Hospital each month. We will be sponsoring a Super Bingo at Danville VA, where Auxiliary members help the veterans play bingo and then we serve refreshments. At the December and February meetings, the unit members each bring one dozen cookies and candy which we divide up and

make goodie plates for the Senior Citizens, shut-ins, and service people from the Homer Area. The Homer Unit sponsors girls between their Junior and Senior year in High School as delegates to Illini Girls State which is held in June at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston. If anyone is interested in joining our unit, please feel free to visit a meeting or contact Phyllis Webb, President, Chris Jones, Vice President, or Lori Rushing, Secretary. Hope to see you there! ■

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For a small town, Homer provides many opportunities for citizen involvement. Many of you do volunteer or get yourselves elected to public office, judging from this list of civic and political organizations gleaned from the Homer Lions Club Community Calendar. Of course, there's many other worthy local causes such as Boy and Girl Scouts, Summer Youth League, and school sponsorships, to name a few.

AM & FM #199
American Legion Post
Church of Christ Ladies Fellowship
Church of Christ Board
Homer Volunteer Fire Department
Fire Department Emergency Medical Technicians
Heritage School Board
Homemakers Extension
Homer Historical Society
Homer Library Board
American Legion Auxiliary
Homer Community Development Board
Homer Lions Club
Martha's Helpers
Methodist Church Board
Presbyterian Adult Fellowship
Presbyterian Session
Presbyterian Women's Association
Homer Recreation Board
Royal Arch #94
Homer Township Board
Senior Citizens
Village of Homer Board

If you're not already doing your share, think about joining one of these fine organizations. This is a wonderful place to raise children. Our homes and streets are safe, people truly care about each other, and our children have the resources they need to develop into honest, contributing adults. You can help to keep it that way by volunteering. You'll be glad you did and so will your community! ■

Support the Homer Community!

Shop at the local businesses.

Complete local surveys and questionnaires asking for your opinion, suggestions and ideas.

If possible, volunteer a couple of hours each month to one of the great organizations in Homer.

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- Don't be rude
- Pay your debts
- Avoid whiners
- If you're a whiner, quit it.
- Don't mix plaids and stripes
- Floss
- Think good thoughts
- Shine your shoes
- Eat right
- Don't give up
- Don't ever give up
- Don't eat so much
- Don't drink so much
- Be happy with another's success
- Say you're sorry
- Listen
- If you open it, close it
- Celebrate your victories
- Tell the truth
- Don't sweat the small stuff
- Return what you borrow
- Know that on a scale of one to ten, you are a ten
- Act like a ten
- Don't cut in line
- Lighten up
- Play fair
- Smile more
- Frown less
- Help someone
- Put things back where you found them
- Learn from your mistakes
- Stop waiting for the right time
- Be flexible
- Don't be a wimp
- Go for it!

HOMER

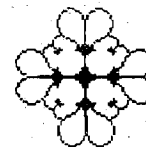
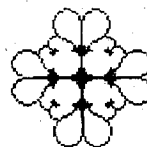
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The Homer Recreation board is still in need of volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Doc Hatton at 896-2587, Kim Matthis at 896-2689 or Betty Lacey at 896-2365.

Would your non-profit organization or club like to make some money? How about sponsoring a volleyball, horseshoe, softball or 3 on 3 basketball tournament on July 4th, 1997 during the July 4th celebration or for Krazy Daze '97? If you are interested, please contact Doc or Kim at the above numbers.

CHRISTMAS FUDGE

Submitted by Sue Jones

Start with:

- 2 cups sugar
- ¾ cups milk
- 1½ cups miniature marshmallows

Grease a 9 inch square pan

Cook above mixture until it starts to boil (about 6 minutes)

Remove from heat and add:

- 1 6-ounce package of chocolate chips
- 1 stick of margarine
- 1 can of pecans

Beat 4 to 5 minutes by hand

Pour into pan and let set until firm

Cut and serve

CHESSY BROCCOLI TURKEY BAKE

Submitted by Sue Jones

Ingredients:

- 1 12-ounce package Home Style Frozen Egg Noodles
- 1 11-ounce can cheddar cheese soup
- 1 5-ounce can evaporated milk
- 1 teaspoon instant minced onion
- 2 cups diced turkey
- 1 4-ounce can mushroom pieces, drained (optional)
- 1 10-ounce package chopped broccoli, thawed
- 1 cup shredded mild cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 350°. Cook noodles in boiling water 20 minutes. Blend soup and milk into a smooth sauce. Add onions and mushrooms. Drain noodles. Layer 1½ cups noodles, ⅓ cup tuna and 1 cup broccoli in a 2-quart casserole. Pour in 1 cup of sauce. Repeat layers. Bake 20 minutes. Then add cheese and bake 15 more minutes. Makes 6 one-cup servings.

CROCK POT HOME-STYLE BEAN SOUP

Submitted by Sue Jones

Ingredients:

- 1 pound dry navy beans (soaked overnight)
- 2 quarts water
- 1 pound meaty hambone or pieces
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 bay leaf
- 3 sprigs celery leaves
- 6 whole peppercorns

Put all ingredients in Crock Pot. Cover and cook on Low 10 to 12 hours (or High 5 to 6 hours). Remove bones, bay leaf, peppercorns and celery springs before serving. Taste for salt adjustment. Trim meat from hambone and return cut-up pieces to soup. Makes 8-10 servings.

Homer News & Views is YOUR newsletter!

Homer News & Views is a community newsletter and is not intended to be a *newspaper*. Local news regarding Homer is adequately covered in the *News-Gazette*, *Commercial News*, *The Leader*, and *Southern Champaign County Today*. *News & Views* is not intended to carry social news these newspapers carry. It does not address births or deaths, engagements or weddings. It does not present school calendars and happenings because the Heritage newsletter and weekly newspapers cover them well and in a timely fashion.

Homer News & Views is Homer-specific and *does not* accept advertising from businesses outside our community if they compete with local businesses. And speaking of advertisers, we hope you are supporting those you see in this newsletter

So what is the purpose of this newsletter. *News & Views* is designed to promote sharing within the community — everything from opinions to recipes to calendars of events that aren't published elsewhere. Simply put, it is designed to promote community involvement, encouraging people to get together socially, and to get people accepting and talking to one another.

Don't you have something you would like to share?

- News about your organization? First of all, we would like to know more about your organization. Tell us about it and who your officers are. Tell us about your pet projects. Churches can print their upcoming events in the *News From Homer Churches* column. We'll be glad to publish other organization's calendars as well.
- An opinion? Write a letter to the *Letters to the Editor* column or submit a guest editorial. We want to hear your views.
- A favorite recipe?
- A bit of Homer history? If you've lived in the area long enough that you would call your recollections *history*, send us a story or anecdote about your experiences. Newcomers and younger people are eager to learn about their hometown.

Think about the possibilities. There probably isn't a person in Homer that couldn't make a contribution to his or her hometown newsletter!

Put your contribution in a sealed envelope marked: Homer News & Views, c/o Stan Cato and drop off at the Homer IGA office or mail it to K.C. Jones, P.O. Box 165, Homer IL 61849.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

Sponsored by Homer Legion Auxiliary members; Homer Fire Auxiliary members; Allerton, Broadlands, & Longview Community members.



Bring joy to a child on Christmas morning!

Our goal for each child: 1 gift, 1 clothing gift, and 1 stocking bag (apple, orange, nuts, candy, and 1 or 2 very small gifts). We will also supply wrapping paper, bows, tags and tape to each household.

Please help us by completing and returning the following information/services request:

1. Are you available to help?

- organizing information to get ready.
 set up of trees.
 trip to purchase bulk items.
 sorting of gifts.

Name _____

Phone _____

2. Do you know of a family we should direct mail to, to be sure they are aware of the program? Don't forget those with kids not in school.

Name _____

Address _____

3. Does your household need a little assistance with those special Christmas wishes?

Parent/Guardian _____

Address (for delivery) _____

Phone (for questions) Home: _____

Work: _____

Child's Information: Birth through 8th grade only. Please fill out a separate sheet for each child to avoid confusion (It's not necessary to use this form.) Be as specific as possible—our shoppers really want to please your child. PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY!

_____ Boy _____ Girl _____ Age

Special Christmas wish: _____

Clothing information:

Top size _____ Pants size _____ Shoe size _____

Special instructions (example: likes baggy sweatshirts)

Needs:

_____ Gloves _____ Hat _____ Other _____

Other important information:

Special interests & likes _____

Favorite color _____

Music likes and access (example: country; Vince Gill, cassette or CD) _____

Special needs for school _____

We will be strictly using a parent/guardian sign-up this year. The church lists will not be used. Do not assume that you are on this year's list just because you received assistance last—YOU MUST SIGN-UP!

Please mail the completed form to:

Deb Happ
c/o Don's Automotive
202 N. Main Street
Homer IL 61849

This address is for both volunteers and child information. Feel free to call 896-2022 for more information. Leave a message if you don't get anyone.

TREES WILL BE SET UP AT: Don's automotive, White's Ace Hardware, Homer IGA, Allerton Post Office, Broadlands Post Office, and Longview Post Office. Trees will be there from December 3rd through December 16th. Gifts must be turned in by December 17th for delivery December 18th and 19th. Unwrapped gifts may be dropped off at either Heritage School office or at Don's Automotive (the Marathon Station in Homer).

From the Archives

PRESENTED BY MEMBERS OF THE HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY. THE FOLLOWING [AUTHOR UNKNOWN] IS REPRINTED FROM THE HOMER CENTENNIAL BOOKLET, 1955.

PART THREE IN A SERIES

While reading this article please remember all references made to now, presently or today are referring to 1955.

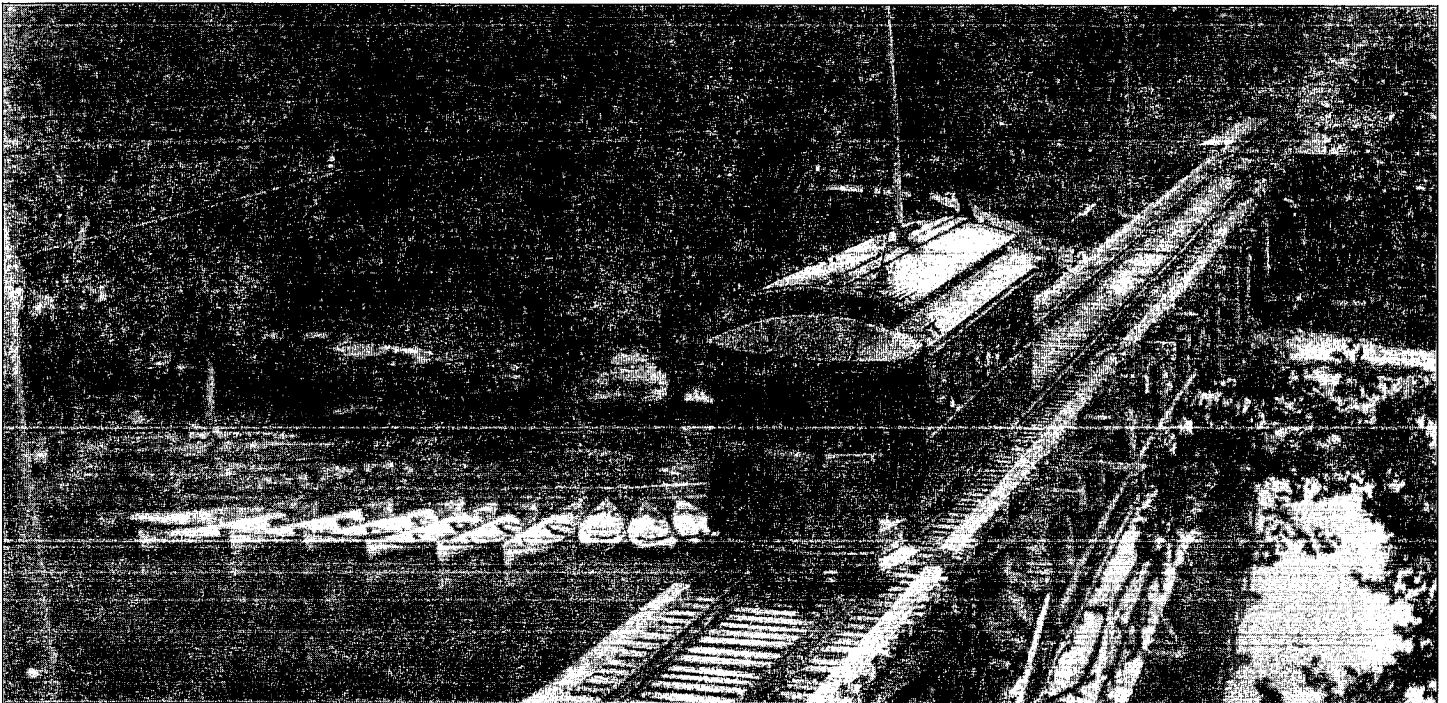
The exact date of the installation of the telephone exchange is not known, but we have secured the following from the October 25th, 1899 edition of the Homer Enterprise: "Dr. G. L. Williamson, who is always quick to take advantage of modern methods and the latest practical ways of doing things, was the first subscriber to the White Telephone Exchange. The doctor took a phone first because he believed the telephone would be beneficial to his business. And now since he is receiving from one to five calls for professional services over the phone daily and as high as three in one night, he feels that he did not err in his judgement. What the telephone had done for the doctor, it will do for all other lines of business in Homer. The telephone is not only a great labor and time saver, but a business bringer a well. No business man should think of doing without one." J. G. White owned the first exchange but, before the

exchange was installed, a telephone was put into the E. T. Mudge drug store and it is recorded that the first call was made to Danville for an order of drugs which were received the next day via Wabash Railroad. Mr. White sold out his exchange in 1912 to Douglas Telephone company and 26 years ago it was sold to a subsidiary of the General Telephone Company who now operates the system. Two of the first operators were Emma Willis and Emma Palmer. New dial telephones were recently put into operation, thus bringing modern telephone service to Homer on its 100th birthday.

In its early years, Homer boasted of a fine livery stable. Fine horses and buggies were for hire. The Stevens Livery Stable was located where the Christian Church now stands.

In 1904 the interurban tracks were laid from Ogden to Homer, connecting Homer with both Danville and Champaign. The station was located where the Bowling Lanes now are and regular hourly runs were made to meet trains from Danville and Champaign.

When the interurban came to Homer, W. B. McKinley



Interurban Bridge at Homer Park

bought the ground for the Homer Park (not quite 30 acres) from George and Gertie Eggleston. The site started at the old covered bridge and ran east. In the spring of 1905, C. B. Burkhardt took charge of Homer Park and built the first cabin which was on the site of Old Homer. Numerous other cabins were built, among them "Homer House," which was located on the east side of the road. This cabin, "Homer House," was moved with the rest of the buildings from the south side of the creek to South Homer on the lot just north of the Presbyterian Church. The Strayhorn family lived in it for years, then it was moved on a lot back of the I.T.S. Station on West Street. From there it was moved to a lot on Caroline Street, north of the school, where Mrs. Mackey occupied same for several years. Then Florence Sharp and her mother lived in this cabin. George M. Porter, in the early days of Homer Park, leased a site for a cabin, and wanting this old historical structure, bought it, moving it the fourth and last time back to where it was built—not far from the Old Homer Mill.

People came from far and near to enjoy the amusements of Homer Park which included boating, dancing, roller skating, swimming, movies, pool hall and concessions. On Sundays and Holidays band concerts and free acts were held. One of the feature attractions was a black bear which the children loved to feed. Mr. and Mrs. Burkhardt retired after 23 years of managing the park. Several other-managers succeeded Mr. Burkhardt and the park finally closed in the early 1930's.

For many years the Homer theater furnished amusement for the citizens of Homer. Home talent plays, box socials, and medicine shows were conducted quite frequently. It was there that the first silent movies were

shown, while music was played by home talent during the showing. The first sound movies were shown here also. For a while this building was used as a storage place for implements belonging to C. B. Butler. About 1940 this building was torn down and the lumber moved to the Oliver Smith farm where it was used in farm buildings.

About the same time the old Homer theater was discontinued, a new theater was started in its present location—the H. M. Smoot building.

As time progressed, Homer profited. In 1928 a concrete road was built from Kankakee to Kansas. This was called Route 49. The new road crossed the Salt Fork on a new steel bridge which was in the same location as the old interurban bridge.

The Homer Waterworks was started in 1937. Many people questioned the advisability of such a venture, but by its completion in 1939, the people were well aware of the wise choice that had been made.

The town of Homer has always been considered a neat appearing town. People generally keep their places in good order as was the custom in the early days.

Although the population has not advanced as rapidly as some other towns in the area, the town has not lost in any respect. During a recent survey, it was determined there were 34 places of business in Homer, these places employing approximately 180 people.

During a period of years immediately after the last war, there was a lag in construction of new houses. Recently this slack has been taken up with the construction of several new homes. Even though new homes are being constructed, there are a few homes still being used that had been moved here from Old Homer. ■



W. H. Wood and E. W. Watson in July, 1926.

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THE HOMER PEACE MEAL PROGRAM

BY SHARON JEFFERS

The Peace Meal is where seniors can come have lunch and visit with friends. Lunch is served at approximately 11:45 a.m. Monday through Friday at the City Building. The cost of the meal is \$1.75 (donation). EVERYONE is welcome. Reservations are needed, so please call me a day in advance.

I would like to start some new activities. Once a week, probably Fridays, we will be doing some sort of fun activity, such as playing cards, or a book swap. I am still looking for ideas or suggestions, please feel free to contact me with any. My goal is to bring more seniors into the site to make a more successful program. On December 13th, we will be having a Christmas (Birthday) party. We will be singing Christmas carols, sharing favorite Christmas stories and having a cookie-candy swap. Senior citizens who would like to come join the fun on December 13th or on any day, just give me a call between the hours of 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.; Sharon Jeffers, Homer Peace Meal Site Supervisor, 896-2121 or 896-2668.

Please call today. We would love to see you! ■

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNDER NEW SERVITUDE

As a graphic artist, my reaction when I received the first issue of Homer News & Views was "wow, SOMEONE has done an incredible amount of WORK." That someone was Terry Wadley (and family). Though he hasn't said so, I know from experience that he has surely volunteered more than 40 hours of his time *per issue* in order to build a successful newsletter for Homer. Terry has a well-deserved reputation for hard work and excellence in the local graphics community and it is with regret that we acknowledge his "retirement" from the hands-on production of News and Views. Thank you, Terry, you've earned a rest and we wish you the best. And, even though News & Views is now "under new servitude," I hope we can still count on your expertise when we occasionally find ourselves up the proverbial creek. More importantly, I'll try my best to maintain the high standards you've set. Truth is, I'll be calling on many of my friends and neighbors in Homer to help produce News & Views. It is, afterall, YOUR newsletter and its continued success depends on YOUR support, so please keep those cards and letters coming. I'll do my best to cross the "t's," dot the "i's" and keep you informed! K.C. Jones

Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Letters must be signed by the writer(s) and should address issues that are relevant to the betterment and development of Homer. The Homer Community Development Board is not responsible for the views presented by letter writers. Please send letter submissions to: K.C. Jones, P.O. Box 165, Homer IL 61849. Or, you may e-mail us at: kcjones@net66.com

Welcome to Homer!

Following is a list of people who have recently moved to Homer. The Welcome Wagon, who provided the names, has already visited—but you can extend your welcome too!

Todd and Ruth Chewning
Steve and Carrie Klitzing
James and Rachel Spencer
Pat and Julie Markel
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Stone
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Girouard and son, Kenny
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Kirby and son
Donald and Joanne Tate
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Edge
Jeff and Tiffany McCracken
Mr. & Mrs. John Rothermel
Jeff Douglas
Brett Barnhart
Skip James

LOCAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES

YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

The Heritage High School's Youth and Government program has two bill groups and a participant on the newspaper staff this year. The bill groups are improving their legislation concerning 1) requiring the installation of carbon monoxide detectors in all public facilities and 2) making rehabilitation programs mandatory for all substance abusers in Illinois prisons. The legislative process will be covered in part by Linda Lee in the program's newsletter. Bill group members include Curt Elmore, Mike Mohr, Catherine Emert, Jon Eagles, Craig Messman and Kelly Ricketts. In order to help pay for their trip to the Model Legislature in Springfield in March, members are selling plastic and ceramic mugs with environmental designs. These items would make excellent holiday gifts. Please contact Diane Walker at 834-3392 to purchase these items for immediate delivery. Thanks to the Homer community for its past support of Youth and Government, a YMCA program.

4-H 49ers

The 4-H 49ers is a new 4-H club in the Homer area. There had not been a 4-H group in Homer for many years, so in the fall of 1995 a new club was started. Club membership is not restricted to Homer youth. Any person aged 8-18 in surrounding towns may join. The club has members from Homer, Broadlands and rural Homer. The name of the club was chosen by the members and it signifies that the club is located near Route 49. Clever, huh? The club meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the Homer Community Building. Officers were elected at the Oct. 12th meeting. Karen Roberts is president, Megan Riggs: vice president, Caitlin Allen: secretary, Nicole Bolt: treasurer, Jennifer Burns: reporter and Wesley Stites: pledge leader. The club is in need of a community service project. It can be a one time arrangement or an ongoing activity. If anyone in the Homer, Allerton or Broadlands area knows of a community need, please contact Crystal Allen at 896-2538.

HERITAGE FHA

During the month of October and the beginning of November, the Heritage FHA Chapter has been very busy. On October 16, the following members attended the Region 6 Rally: Mandy Garrard, Kelly Ricketts, Shawn Miller, Steven Ambler, Jennifer Easton, Elizabeth McCoskey, Marci Webber, Kyler Gorman, Stacey Reeley, Robert Shipley, Tiffany Matthis, Kim Wolf, Brittany McCoy, Andrea Wince, Jordan McDaniel, Angela Rupinski, Kelly Fish, Casey Auto-

berry, Kira Childers, Jodie Miller, Angie Pitts, Shawna Lindsey and our advisor Carolyn McIntyre. At the rally we heard a wonderful speaker, Butch Cotter, attended many different workshops, such as eating disorders. We toured the EIU campus and finished off the day with a foundation activity. Everyone who attended seemed to have had a terrific time. On October 26th, the FHA put on a terrifying Haunted House for the community. We were able to raise close to \$200.00 dollars. The money is going towards paying off our cookbook bill. Speaking of cookbooks, we still have plenty left. They are only \$10.00 each and make fantastic gifts for yourself or that hard-to-buy-for person at Christmas. If you would like to get one, see your favorite FHA'er or you can call the high school at 834-3392 and ask for Carolyn McIntyre. On November 22-24 Kelly Ricketts, Mandy Garrad and Carolyn McIntyre will be attending the National Cluster Meeting in Louisville, Kentucky. On a special note, the FHA would once again like to sincerely thank those people who helped us to make the haunted house a success. They are: the Homer Recreation Board (c/o R.L.Hatton), the Broadlands Community Club (c/o Terry Lies), Linda and Heather March, Jim and Chad Richardson, Carrie Burrows and Dan Robinson. We extend our sincere thanks. ■

LIONS CLUB MARQUEE

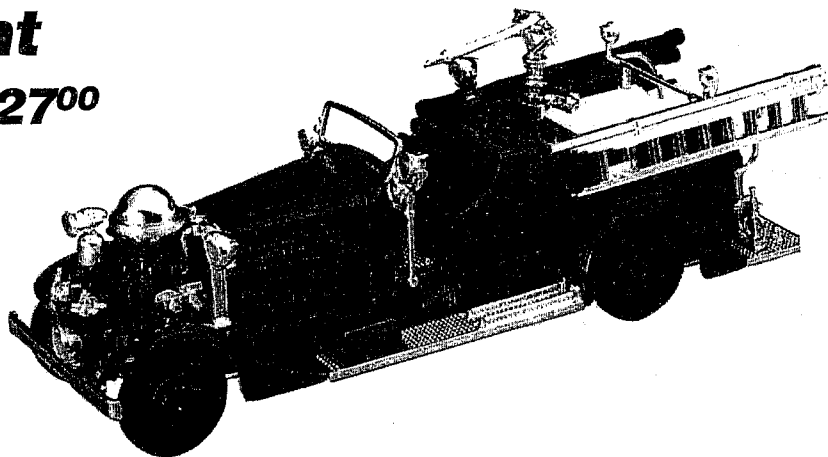
A recent letter, which was sent to the village and passed along to the Lions Club, expressed concern that the Marquee outside the Village Hall is not kept up-to-date. The writer, though quite right in his/her (anonymous) criticism, was unaware that the Marquee actually belongs to and is maintained by the Homer Lions Club. We have obviously failed to let folks know who owns the sign and how they should go about getting their message on it. Two Lions members are appointed each month as sign keepers. For upcoming months they are:

December, 1996:	Kent Krukewitt 896-2195	Marlin Brown 733-2710
January, 1997:	Mark Baird 896-2008	Stan Smith 896-2179

If you have a message to post, please phone them with the information. No personal or mercantile notices may be posted and the Club does not accept paid postings. The Marquee is a free service intended for use by non-profit organizations who have announcements of public interest. ■

Homer Fire Department & Fire Auxiliary are offering the 1937 Ahrens-Fox Collectible Homer Fire Department Banks — ONLY \$27⁰⁰

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STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Check Cash To be shipped to the above address (add \$3.00 per bank). Make checks (\$27.00 per bank plus shipping if applicable) payable to *Homer Fire Department* and send to: **Fire Trucks, 811 South Main, Homer, IL 61849** or drop off orders at Don's Marathon Station, Homer, Illinois

NEWS FROM HOMER'S CHURCHES

PRESBYTERIAN POSSIBILITIES

On November 3rd and November 10th, a special offering was taken to assist those facing a winter ill-prepared. This blanket offering provides, at low cost, blankets to needy persons in this country and elsewhere. This program is offered by Church World Service. \$170.00 was collected as of November 17th. On November 24th, we will join with other Christians in Homer to give thanks for our blessings at the Community Thanksgiving service at the Methodist Church. The Homer Churches Cooperating sponsors this service.

Members of the church will gather on Saturday, November 30th to decorate and prepare the church for Advent and Christmas.

During Advent, the Christmas Joy offering will be received. This offering is to aid retired church workers in supplementing low income, nursing home care and medical help when personal resources are inadequate. As well, these funds will aid racial-ethnic schools and colleges in their educational mission.

Holy Communion will be celebrated on December 1st, the first Sunday in advent. Bible study is held each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. and worship at 10:00 a.m.

In an attempt to re-examine our observance of Advent and Christmas, the booklet "Whose Birthday is it, anyway" has been distributed to members. Thoughts, ideas and projects to make the Season more Spirit-filled and Christ-centered are offered. Others interested in checking out this resource for family or church use, may contact any church officer or Jim Swathwood, Lay Pastor. Messages in December and January will emphasize and highlight the themes presented in this booklet.

A pledge anyone might wish to consider:

THE CHRISTMAS PLEDGE

Believing in the true spirit of Christmas, I commit myself to: Remember those people who truly need my gifts; express my love in more direct ways than gifts; examine my holiday activities in the light of my values; be a peacemaker within my circle of family and friends; rededicate myself to my spiritual growth.

HOMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

We have a number of things coming up in the next two months. November and December seem to be filled with activities.

December 8th will be our youth club Christmas program during the Sunday school hour. Following worship, a soup and sandwich meal will be served. December 15th, the Chancel Choir will be presenting a Christmas Cantata at 10:15 a.m. Everyone in the community is invited. December 24th, we will have two candlelight Christmas Eve services. The times will be announced later.

After a two month hiatus which begins December 4th, our youth club will resume meetings February 5th, 7th and

8th grade confirmation class will also resume February 5th.

"Martha's Helpers Class" is planning a luncheon meeting at Gary's Restaurant on Tuesday, December 17th. Later in December, we will be helping with food baskets for Homer families. This project is sponsored by Homer Churches Cooperating. Helpers from our church include Betty Taylor, Diane Freeman, Joan Tate and Phyllis Smith.

On November 24th, our church hosted the community Thanksgiving service. Our Youth club choir gave their first performance. Keep up the good work kids!

We are really happy to have a new Sunday school class planned for college age and young married couples. Patrick Hubert organized this class and leads it. They have named their class "Focus on Christian Living" (FCL). We are so happy to have you FCL!! In addition, we have two other adult classes. We have Sunday school classes for every age two years through adult.

You are always welcome to worship at the Homer United Methodist Church "Where Faith Makes a Difference".

Yours in Christ, Bev Carter

HOMER CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

Are you tired? Are your problems getting you down? Did you have a dream or a vision of doing something great but life's realities killed that dream? Do you wish you and your spouse were closer? Do you feel financial disasters closing in? Is your future dim? There is good news! At the Homer Church of Christ, we teach and proclaim the Good News every week and every day. Your life is valuable and God created you with a purpose and a plan. If you don't have a church home, we would love to talk to you about how God can help you to feel valuable and to give you strength during some of the painful trials of life. Our new facility is now enclosed against the winter weather and this milestone was celebrated with a steak fry for everyone in the church and the community who has helped in any way.

Our youth ministry continues throughout the winter and keeps growing. Our Wednesday night youth groups are for ages 5 through 8th grade and are from 6:45 - 8:00 p.m. Our Sunday night youth ministry is for high school aged youth and starts at 6:30 p.m. December is a beautiful month and to celebrate our Savior's birth we have planned several special programs. Our Christmas Cantata "From the Realms of Glory" will be on December 15th at 6:00 p.m. at the church. We will have refreshments afterwards and everyone is invited. Our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion will be on December 24th. Due to our overwhelming attendance last year, we have decided to offer two services this year. The first service will be at 6:00 p.m. and the second will be at 9:00 p.m. Our youth will be singing on December 15th at our morning service. And the Sunday Christmas service will be on Sunday, December 22nd. Please feel welcome to join us for any services, or call our office for more information at 896-2332. ■



KIRBY **Funeral Homes**

*Will be Sponsoring a
Community Christmas Memorial Service
for Homer, Fithian, Broadlands and Surrounding Areas
Sunday December 8, 1996
2:00 P.M.
708 S. Main Street
Homer, Illinois*

This will be a memorial service to honor those who passed away in 1996. The family and friends of those being honored are welcome to attend. There will be an ornament with your loved ones name placed on the Christmas tree at the funeral home.

**To reserve your ornament, please R.S.V.P. by December 4, 1996.
(217) 896-2323 or (217) 896-2030**

There is no charge for this memorial service.

*• The Public Is Invited •
Refreshments Will Be Served*

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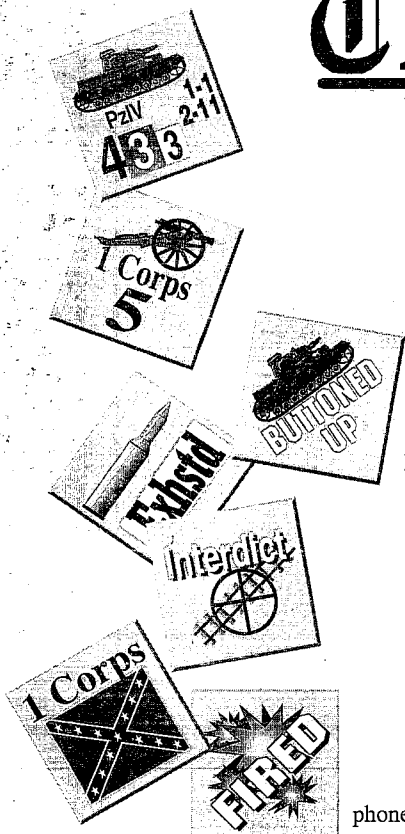
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