

HOMER



News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Third Annual "Christmas at Home" Housewalk

Sponsored by the Homer Recreation Board

Saturday, December 11, 1999

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

\$5.00 donation

*Tickets available in advance from
Recreation Board Members
(tickets and maps will be available
at the homes & at the City Building
from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.)*

Proceeds realized by the Homer Recreation Board
will be donated to the playground fund.

Housewalk homes are identified by **CANDY CANES**.



See Housewalk details on Pages 4, 5 & 8 →

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896-2099, term expires 12/31/01

Pat Varvel

896-2392, term expires 5/31/00

Tom Cottrell

term expires 11/1/01

Don Glenn

896-2776, term expires 5/31/00

Dave Reel

term expires 11/1/01

Greg Knott

896-2348, term expires 6/30/02

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.

WIENKE'S SHOE REPAIR

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HOMER VILLAGE BOARD

PART TWO

by Chris Reel

Last issue we looked at board members Joe Humphrey, Jim Lacy and Lauri Umbarger. This issue will focus on David Burns and Orlena Pruitt.

Look for an interview with Mike Johnson in a later issue of *Homer News & Views*.

Orlena Pruitt is a five year member of the board. She serves on the Ways and Means Committee with Mike Johnson and David Burns. Her goals as a board member have been to encourage growth in Homer, and to provide more activities for the young people. Orlena works as a clerk to a circuit judge in traffic court, and deals with the public. She has an associate degree and 15 years experience as a legal secretary.



Orlena Pruitt

Accomplishments of the board which she is most proud of include phase one of the TIF district and the water project. In the future, she would like to see senior citizen housing, so that local residents don't have to move away when they can no longer live on their own. Orlena sees the quality of our fire department and its new building, and the schools as adding to the quality of life in Homer.

Orlena would like to see more residents putting their knowledge and skills to work for the betterment of Homer. She also would like to see more turn out at meetings, not just when there is a hot topic to be discussed. A greater turn out means more caring citizens. She encourages residents to call

and let board members know of their concerns. Her phone number is 896-2748.

David Burns is one of the newest members of the board, having been elected in April 1999. His particular concern as a board member is to see moderate growth that would make this a better community, yet retain the benefits of a small community. He would like to see Homer as a "safe, enjoyable and self-sufficient community." Though a newer resident of Homer, he appreciates the small town values.



David Burns

In his almost twenty years of serving churches, including his present position as pastor of the Homer Church of Christ for the past four years, he has had a lot of experience in dealing with people and problems. He also operates a computer business.

Serving on the board has been a learning experience, and he welcomes the opportunity to be a part of solving Homer's problems, rather than just complaining about them. Like other board members, David Burns encourages residents to contact him with their concerns and problems. His phone number is 896-2797.

The board members expressed a great deal of concern for the welfare of the village and its residents. They care deeply about seeing Homer grow and prosper in the future, and as stated before, want to hear from the residents.

Photos by Jim Alred, Homer, IL

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN HOMER

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

Homer Car Wash — 110 N. Main St., \$20,000. 896-2714

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.)

MARQUEE SIGN KEEPERS

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

Sign keepers for December 1999 are
D. Patterson, 896-3400 and K. Krukewitt, 896-2195

Sign keepers for January 2000 are
K. Jones, 896-2763 and G. Happ, 896-2004

Third Annual "Christmas



2151 C.R. 1100 N.

The Johnson Home

The country estate home of Representative Timothy "Tim" Johnson and family is situated in a clearing near the woods on the banks of the Salt Fork River in rural Sidney. The three story home features nine bedrooms, several fireplaces, a sun-room, an indoor pool, and an exercise room. Large windows, at the back of the home, make viewing the wild life along the Salt Fork an enjoyable experience.

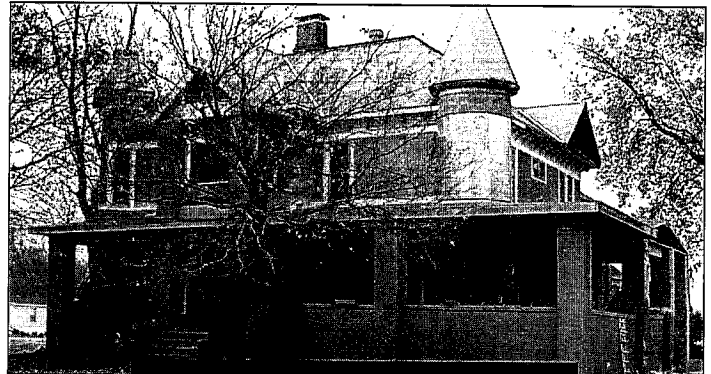
Upon entering the foyer, a beautiful open stair leads to the upper rooms. The house also features an elevator that leads to all floors.

The home was constructed by Scheitlin and Peters Construction and completed in October 1996. The home, though large in size, still has a nice, warm flow to it. You will enjoy touring each room. The Johnson family hopes your tour will be a delightful one. Family members will be on hand to greet you.

To find the home from Homer, go west on the Sidney road to within 1/4 mile of Sidney. Turn right (north) on the St. Joseph road (2125 E.), go one mile to the first crossroad (1100 N.), turn right (east), and go about 2/10 mile to 2151. Turn into the drive (right) and follow the road to the Johnson house.

Breakfast during the Housewalk

8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The St. Charles Borromeo Church, located at the corner of Wabash and East Streets, will be serving egg casseroles, muffins, coffee cakes, rolls, fruit, juice, coffee and hot chocolate. There will be Christmas music and an angel collection display. Donations are welcome. A raffle will be held during the breakfast with proceeds earmarked for the Homer Churches Cooperating Food Pantry.



304 E. First Street

The Cunningham Home

The home at 304 East First in Homer, known as the "Castle," will again be open for the Housewalk this year. The house was purchased in January by Ray and Christine Cunningham. They have been working very hard all year to restore the home to its original grandeur.

The home was built in 1889 by Michael David Coffee for \$10,000, including a carriage house. Later owners and residents were S.B. Ball, Joseph Thomas, George Porter, and Florence Robinson. The carriage house area was the site of Carter's Roller Rink in the 1950's and 1960's.

Today the house has elements of both the Victorian era and the the World War One period. All of the woodwork, the stained and etched glass, and the fireplaces are from the original construction in 1889. A 1917 renovation brought the stucco exterior, a large porch, and other changes—but some of the Victorian elements were removed at that time, including a slate roof, lattice work, and ornate window trim.

This year the Cunninghams have restored the laundry porch on the east side in the Victorian style and three porch pillars also on the east side in the 1917 style. The house has a fascinating history which the Cunninghams have taken great care to preserve. A complete history of the home with photographs will be presented at the Housewalk. Come and meet the Cunninghams and see this beautiful restoration of the "Castle." Seven rooms will be open, including the upstairs.

Lunch during the Housewalk

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (or until the food is gone).
Homer Fire Department - Soup and sandwiches at new Fire Station.

at Home" Housewalk



2151 C.R. 1100 N.

The Davison Home

The Davison's are two miles west of Homer on the Sidney Road. At C.R. 2500 E. Turn north (right) and follow the road as it turns west (left). About 1/2 mile, watch for Housewalk signs and turn in at Wolf Acres. It's the first house on the left.

Jim and Helen Davison designed and built their eleven room home in 1979 on the site that was once Helen's grandfather's sawmill. Above the Salt Fork River on three acres, the home is surrounded by trees and feels like a country lodge.

It is furnished with antiques, items handcrafted by the couple, and collectibles that are always on display. Helen's rolling pin collection, including some from both of their families, is displayed along with cross-stitched Santas. One bedroom houses a collection of Santas year-round and features willow furniture Helen designed and had built for daughter Katie.

The supporting beams in the kitchen came from Jim's Grandfather Wilson's barn near Sidney and the paneling in the foyer from another area barn. Helen's mother Doris lives with the Davisons and will showcase some of her St. Louis Cardinals memorabilia. Downstairs, the family room overlooks the river and opens onto a patio with a built-in fire pit. This area holds Jim's Christmas stein collection and several old pieces of advertising—including a sign from the post office where Helen's grandmother was once post-mistress.

On the second floor, the master bedroom has a stained glass window created by Jim's father from a window taken from his Grandfather's home. An adjoining loft overlooks the sunken living room. This room seems to be open to the great outdoors with a 19 foot wall of windows. It is warmed by a brick corner fireplace. Outside, the home has three decks and a patio with a view of the river.

Special Thanks to Jim Alred of Homer for photography of this year's Housewalk Homes.



308 S. Ellen Street

The Garrison Home

Matt & Susi Garrison purchased their 12 room home at 308 S. Ellen in May of this year. The Garrisons, with two children, dog and cat, wanted a Victorian style house. The home is in the middle of the remodeling stages and only parts of it will be open for the Christmas walk.

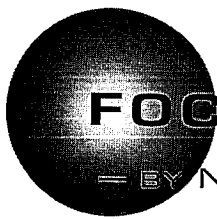
The home was built in the early 1900's, by a prominent Homer banker, C. H. Wallace. The woodwork on the inside was from the virgin wood that was around the Central Illinois area. Walnut and oak was used in most places of the interior. According to the blueprints of the house, and the grandchildren of the Wallace family, the house had a pulley type elevator in the main foyer. The house incorporates a main staircase and a butler stair. The fireplace was the scene of many weddings throughout history. With basement, first and second floors, the house contains about 8100 square feet of space.

Some features of the home, besides the beautiful open stair, are 3 double pocket doors, 3 single pocket doors, leaded glass, 44" wide front door, large sitting window, portico, and butler pantry. Pictures given to the Garrisons by the Wallace family will be on display.

A recent owner was May Jill Thompson, and many will remember it as the home of long time residents, Monroe and Vera Sands. The Victorian style of the home is accented with country touches.

Dinner during the Housewalk

3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. at Dave's Restaurant. Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and vegetables for \$4.75



FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

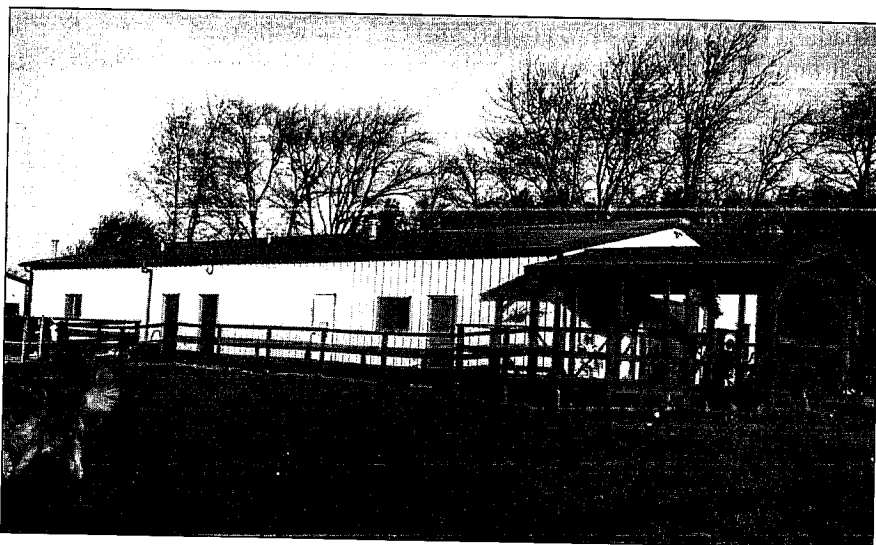
— BY NAOMI ROBERTS

MILLER AQUATICS & HEALTH CLUB

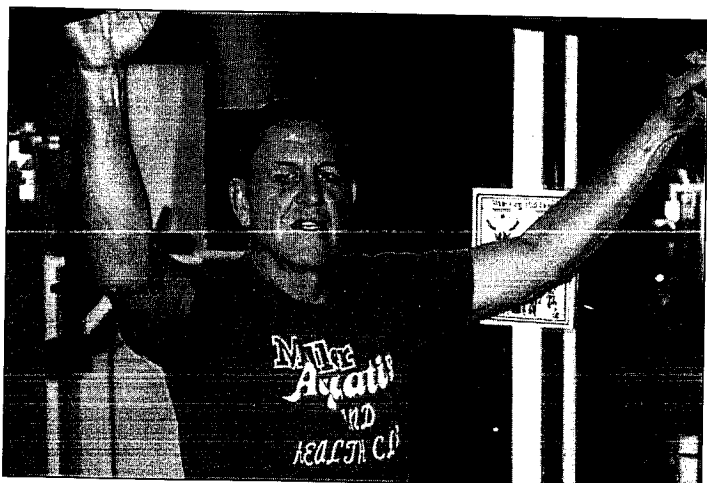
Fitness and health has become one of this nation's greatest ways to pass the time. We are constantly striving for a slimmer, and more toned body. At Bruce Miller's Miller Aquatics & Health Club, there are many ways to work towards a better body build.

In the Health Club, Miller has treadmills, stair steps, stationary bicycles, and free weights. The free weights are specially made weight lifting machines with cams for a smoother lift.

At Miller's Health Club, there are no crowds. Located in the country at 1175A CR 2500E, members have a peaceful, quiet setting to do their workouts. Sometimes, they are alone in their workouts, but no member is allowed in the weight room alone, until they are properly trained in weight lifting either by Miller, his wife, Jan, or a part-time employee, Troy Preston. Preston works three days



Photos by Jim Alfred, Homer, IL



Bruce is caught just hanging out at the Health Club

a week from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Miller works the morning hours and his wife works the afternoon hours.

The Health Club has a sitting area with magazines, and a television for those doing cardiovascular exercises. There are men's and women's restrooms, and also a steam bath in the men's room. An aerobics room sits empty and unused right now, but Miller is searching for an aerobics instructor. If interested, you can call him at 896-2744.

Miller offers memberships for the Health Club, and the fees are:

Initial Fee \$99.00 Single, \$150.00 Couple.

3 Month Membership is \$70.00 Single, 110.00 Couple.

Miller would like to see senior citizens become more active in building and maintaining their bodies. Miller sees no reason why they can't use the bicycles, treadmills, and also do some light weight lifting. While the Health Club is open five days a week, Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30

a.m. and from 4:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m., the Aquatics part of the business is only open in the spring and summer.

In the spring, Miller holds swim camps for children ranging in ages from seven through about eighteen years. Most of these children are on swim teams. They are highly motivated, dedicated, and very disciplined in the sport of swimming. At these camps, there is no training in regards to how to swim. These children come for instruction on technique. There is a two day camp just for starts and turns, and a one day Boomer camp, where the philosophy of Phil Boomer's "posturing in the water" technique is taught.

At these camps, the students rise early for a two hour workout, instruction, volleyball game, and another afternoon two hour workout. They are highly dedicated to learning how to improve their swimming technique. As with any learning situation for children there is also eating and fun. John Warters Catering Service from Homer caters breakfast and lunch. Miller says Warters does a fantastic job, because the children love his meals, and "Everyone knows how hard it is to get children to eat anything other than pizza or burgers and fries.

For the fun part of the camps, there is water basketball, inner tube races, free throw contests, and a fanciest dives contest. There is also a cookout in the woods behind Miller's house. It is a time of great fun and learning for these swim team children.

Miller also offers swim lessons in the summer for four and five year olds that know nothing about swimming. For the past 39 years, Miller has taught children in Homer and several surrounding communities how to swim. Miller has approximately ten teachers, who help him each summer. All the teachers go through extensive training. They are even filmed, then critiqued on their training techniques. Miller says every teacher must use the same method in teaching. All swim strokes are taught by the same method, and the same language is used. Miller says, "Everyone must be on the same page.

Miller is very enthused and dedicated to swimming, so much that one young man, Dan Trupin, whom Miller has instructed for the past seven years, will be competing in the Olympic swim trials. This is definitely a sense of pride for Miller, and for those seeking a professional swim team instructor, it should make them think of Miller.

One other business Miller offers, which has nothing to do with body building or swimming is selling live Christmas trees. Beginning November 26th, you can select and cut your own Scotch or White Pine tree for Christmas. Or if you prefer, you can buy a Balsam Fir which Miller has brought in from Wisconsin. The Balsam Fir tree has a nice scent, and is a lot bushier, but it cannot be grown here in Illinois. In the Christmas tree shed, where you can purchase your tree, Mrs. Miller also has wreaths and an array of Christmas ornaments for sale. The Miller's have cider for their customers too. The Christmas Trees will be on sale until December 22nd. They are open every Friday, Saturday and Sunday for tree sales.

Make Christmas Count!

It's that wonderful, wintry time of year, and your Hallmark store is brimming with gifts, table settings and cards to make every moment spectacular. After all, it's the last Christmas of the millennium. Make it extraordinary!



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Closed Sat. & Sun.

**You are
Cordially invited
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Fourth Annual
Renaissance Jewelry
Studio
Open House**

Saturday, December 11, 1999
9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

502 W. Fourth Street
Homer, Illinois

**Original Articles by
Sue Jones, K.C. Jones,
Linda Morenz, and
Jenniffer Sisco**

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Other Housewalk Day Activities

RENAISSANCE STUDIOS—9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Will show jewelry, paintings, prints, cards, weaving, and basketry. 502 W. Fourth Street.

PASTRY/BAKE SHOP SALE—10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Women of the Presbyterian Church will have a pastry shop and bake sale with noodles, cakes, pies, rolls, carmel corn, peanut brittle, etc. at the Cunningham home (the Castle), 304 E. First Street.

SANTA—10:00 a.m. to Noon. There will be an elf and pictures taken.

CRAFTERS—10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the City Building and Wakefield's building.

CHRISTMAS TREE LANE—at the City Building. Participants are American Legion Auxiliary, Dave's Restaurant, Don's Marathon, Driscoll Pharmacy, Homer Home Extension, Homer Library, Homer Post Office, Kirby Funeral Homes, Uncle Boonies Bait Shop, Village of Homer, White's Ace Hardware, Wienke Shoes, and Wilson's Christmas Tree Farm.

CANDY SHOP—10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Church of Christ will sell candy at the City Building.

WHITE'S ACE HARDWARE— will provide complimentary hot chocolate and encourages everyone to check out their sales.

HOMER MERCHANTS—will be open and will sponsor promotions

SPECIAL THANKS to the following persons/businesses for their assistance in making this event a success :

K.C. Jones/Renaissance Studios, Homer, for graphic design and printing services.

Rhonda McDowell's Longaberger Baskets, Sidney and Teri Daly's Handcrafted Primitives, Philo, for assisting the Davisons with decorating.

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Homer Church News

HOMER CHURCH OF CHRIST

God continues moving in a mighty way at the Homer Church of Christ, located on the East side of Homer at 500 E. Second Street.

Each Sunday the Spirit of God continues to lead the worship services through contemporary praise music and praise teams.

This month, come and enjoy the annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. This is always a unique and special event.

On Sunday December 19th at 6:00 p.m. the Homer Church of Christ will be presenting "Celebrate The Season," a Christmas Cantata. You'll capture the true meaning of Christmas as you enjoy the singing, drama and Christmas scenery.

The Homer Church of Christ continues to enjoy a strong youth ministry. Planet Jesus Club meets each Wednesday night at 6:45 p.m. for ages Kindergarten - 4th grade. Jr. High youth groups meet each Sunday night at 6:00 p.m. and Senior High Youth groups meet each Sunday at 6:30 p.m.

Fresh Wind Ministries is a ministry of the Homer Church of Christ, a renewal ministry work that is now reaching across the world. The Fresh Wind Team has made presentations in Indianapolis, West Virginia, Columbus, OH and here in Illinois. The focus of this ministry team is to lead churches and individuals to experience the Fresh Wind of God's presence. The team has just developed a 12 part cassette teaching series on Spiritual Warfare addressing questions like, "How To Break Satanic Strongholds", "Are There Guardian Angels?", "Where Did Satan Come From?" and more. Check on this ministry online at: www.freshwind.org

The Homer Church of Christ's mission statement is to glorify God by reaching the unchurched, making responsible disciples and training them for a ministry in the Body of Christ."

If you are wanting to grow in your knowledge of His Word, and enjoy Spirit-Led worship, come join us each Sunday. Bible Study is at 9:30 a.m. and morning Worship Celebration begins at 10:30 a.m. Call the church office at (217) 896-2332 for more information or visit the church online at: www.prairienet.org/hcc

FROM THE PRESBYTERIANS

November activities included a fellowship meal on the 7th; Communion was celebrated at the Champaign County Nursing home on the 16th; participation in the Community Thansgiving service on the 24th at the Church of Christ; Decoration of the church for the Advent season and Chirstmas on November 27th; Holy Communion was cele-

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WE'RE IN YOUR HOMETOWN!

brated on the 28th, the first Sunday in Advent; the women have been and are working for their mini-bazaar as part of the housewalk on the 11th of December. They have also donated time to work at the Empty Tomb, Inc. Two questions before you begin your gift shopping: What are you giving to the Lord for HIS birthday! Is He at the top of your list?

HERITAGE ANGEL TREE

The Angel tree in Homer was began in 1994 by a group of friends. The next year it was sponsored by The Homer Fire Auxiliary and Friends of the Fire Department. Then with the help of the Homer American Legion Auxiliary Unit 290. The next year the Angel Tree became a Legion Auxiliary project, with the generous support of local businesses and caring people of the community.

The Angel Tree encompasses the entire Heritage School District and includes children from birth through eight grade. Each child receives a clothing gift and a toy gift(older children receive CD's, Jewelry or other such requests). We ask not less than \$10.00 and no more than \$20.00 is spent per gift. This keeps gifts, especially in multi-child families, on a more even level.

Any family who needs help is eligible. All applications are kept private with only one or two people knowing actual names. Once an application is received, the family and each child is assigned a letter and number for identification. The only other people to know the family names are the people who deliver the gifts.

Angel Trees will again be at Don's Automotive, White's Ace Hardware and the Allerton and Broadlands Post Offices. Pick an angel card and make some child's Christmas a happier occasion.

Cash donations are always welcome if you do not have the time to shop or just want to make a donation. Cash donations are used for extras, such as underclothing, socks, shoes, boots, etc. Gifts must be turned in by December 10th to Don's Automotive or Heritage School offices. If you wish to send a donation, you may send it to Chris Jones, 811 S. Main, Homer, IL 61849.

Notice

The *News & Views* "Salute to Homer's Volunteer Firefighters" will resume in the February issue."

FORWARD MOTION

DRIVE TRAIN SPECIALIST

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ASE & ATRA MASTER TECH

Homer Household

Recipes submitted by Home Extension members.

FUDGE CYCLES

—submitted by Marilyn Collins

1 Pkg instant chocolate pudding

1/4 c sugar

1/2 c canned milk

2 cups milk

Mix, and pour into containers. Freeze. Hint: I like to mix this in a 4 cup measuring cup, makes for easier pouring.

BARBECUED BEANS

—submitted by Elvira Wakefield

1 lb. Hamburger 1/2 c onion

1/2 t salt 1/4 t pepper

1 can Pork & Beans 1/2 c catsup

1 T Worcestershire sauce 2 T vinegar

1/4 t Tabasco sauce

Brown meat and onion. Add rest of ingredients and mix.

Pour in casserole and bake 350 for 30 min.

CROCKPOT APPLE BUTTER

— submitted by Elvira Wakefield

12 cups peeled, cored and chopped apples or enough to fill crockpot.

4 c sugar or less, depending on sweetness of apples.

2 t. cinnamon and 2 T. red hots

Fill crockpot with apples,(lid may not fit at start, but apples shrink as they cook). Drizzle sugar over, add cinnamon and redhots. Cover and cook on high for 1 hour, then lower heat and cook all day or night until thick and dark in color. Stir occasionally. Cool. Place in jars or containers and freeze. Leave room for expansion.

APPLE CRUMB PIE

— submitted by Bonnie Baird

4 large tart apples 1/2 recipe of plain pie crust

1/2 c sugar 1 t. cinnamon

1/2 c sugar 3/4 c flour

1/3 c butter or margarine

Pare apples, cut into eighths and arrange in 9" pastry-lined piepan. Sprinkle with 1/2 c sugar mixed with 1 t. cinnamon. Sift remaining 1/2 c sugar with flour, cut in butter until crumbly. Sprinkle over apples. Bake in 450 oven 10 min. then 350 about 40 minutes, or until apples are tender.

Homemakers Extension

Homemakers Extension began a new calendar year at their September meeting by planning their program for the 1999-2000 year ahead. Shirley Miller, 1st vice chairman, led the meeting at Homer Village Park.

Plans were made to have a speaker from the CRISIS Nursery in Champaign, for the October meeting. The meeting was held at the Presbyterian Church basement.

Future plans for the Unit year include a Craft Day at the Village Hall on November 12, when the members will make Smile dolls for the CRISIS Nursery, a Christmas potluck dinner on December 17th at Pat Butler's new home, and an International luncheon March 17th featuring the foods of Iceland.

Lessons to be given by members this year will be: "Eating right when eating away from home" — Teamwork can make it happen — Gifts from the Kitchen — Red Plan-rest-exercise-diet — Healthy Indoor Air for Home — Grandparents Raising Grandchildren — Container Gardening — and a County meeting in Rantoul in May with a lesson on antiques.

Anyone 18 years or over may join Homemakers Extension and guests are always welcome. Dues are \$10.00 per year. Homer Extension Unit co-chairmen are Mary Ann Rohl, 896-2270 and Virginia Bair, 896-2207. Membership chairman is Pat Butler 896-2657.

Homer Library News

The Christmas season is upon us and the library has resources for you. We've got holiday videos for entertainment. Look for books with a wealth of ideas for decorations, food, gifts and entertaining. Or if you need to relax and unwind, check out a book of holiday stories. Our children's section has many Christmas books, as well. And don't forget the magazines; our top shelf magazines are full of Christmas. And be sure to stop in during regular library hours on December 11th, the day of the Christmas house walk.

Chris' Quick Pick: *Leota's Garden* by Francine Rivers. We've read about the internment camps for Japanese-Americans during World War II. This book shows how German-Americans were treated. An elderly widow estranged from her family, a granddaughter willing to question that estrangement, a garden going to seed, and a college student needing a research subject come together, resulting in the revelation of a family secret and more.

In this last issue of 1999, we would like to say a sincere "thank you" to all who have used the library this year, to those who have donated books and made financial gifts, attended our programs, made our book sale a success, and encouraged us on. Without our patrons checking out our materials and using our services, there would be no reason for us to be here. Thank you, and we look forward to serving you next year as well.



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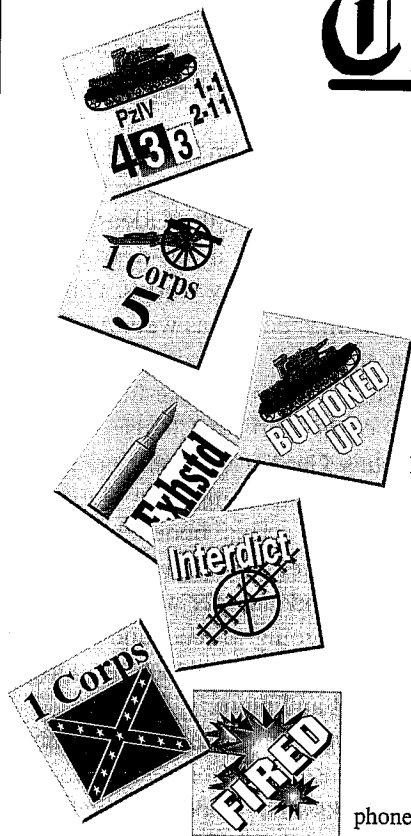
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