

HOMER



News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

BAIRD HOUSE RECOGNIZED AS A CENTENNIAL FARM

by Donald Baird

My grandfather, John Smiley Baird (known as "Smiley"), was born February 26, 1854 in Ripley, Ohio. He came to Illinois when he was sixteen and lived on a farm near Fairmount with an older brother, Frank Baird and his wife Jessie Browning. He married Jessie's half sister Harriet Angeline Browning on March 13, 1884 in New Albany, Indiana. They then moved to a farm southwest of Homer in the Lost Grove area. Grandpa bought a farm about one half mile east of the Lost Grove Cemetery in February, 1892. They built a new house in 1897 where they raised five children: Glenn, Oscar, Ralph, Elizabeth and Mary. The house is still standing with the fifth generation of Baird's living there.

Grandpa farmed with horses and mules—there were no tractors or combines at that time. Corn was shucked by hand and thrown in wagons. To get the farming done, Grandpa had hired men who stayed with them and Grandma cooked for them. They had cows, hogs, sheep and chickens, so they had their own meat, eggs, butter and cottage cheese. There was a large garden and many fruit trees and berries. Trips to town were made infrequently and they stocked up on flour, sugar and salt. Besides farming, Grandpa served a Township Road Commissioner for several years.

Early in the 1920's Grandma and Grandpa moved into Homer on the south edge of town. They took their horses and buggy, cows, and chickens with them. Grandpa died in 1932 and Grandma lived there until she died in 1950.

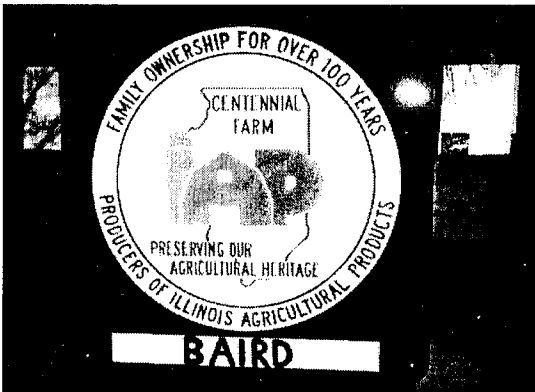
When Grandpa and Grandma moved to

town, my father and mother, Ralph and Helen Morrison Baird moved on the "home place". At that time they had two children, Jeane and John. Then in 1928 my twin brother, Ronald, and I were born there. About this time farming began to change from horses to tractors, so my dad got his first tractor—a Fordson. Besides farming, Dad had a threshing machine and a thrashed grain for the neighboring farmers. During the depression, Dad did a lot of livestock trucking for himself and other farmers. He farmed until retiring in 1952, when they built a new home in Homer.

I married Leona Tyler in August, 1952 and we started housekeeping on the "home place" after Mom and Dad moved to Homer. We had three children: Janice, Anita and Rod. We lived there until 1988 when we built a new home on the Broadlands road. Our son, Rod and his wife Brenda Danner Baird, now live on the "home place" along with their children: Joshua, Laura, Sarah and Hannah (the fifth generation).

I am still farming the land with Rod's help.

To become a Centennial Farm we sent an application to the Illinois Department of Agriculture in Springfield. After they verified that the farm has been in our family for 100 years, the Department of Agriculture sent us a certificate signed by Governor Jim Edgar. We also received a two foot square metal sign to identify it as a Centennial Farm. There are 195 Centennial Farms in Champaign County.



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JIM LITTLE
VILLAGE BOARD LIAISON

HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

Please remember, this 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. n

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COMMUNITY MAKES "CHRISTMAS AT HOME" A GREAT SUCCESS

On a snowy Saturday, December 6, the first "Christmas at Home" celebration took place in Homer. A large crowd attended downtown events, and the housewalk, and organizers were elated with the turnout. The sound of strolling carollers could be heard along the streets, as shoppers browsed the craft booths, Cookie Walk, Toy Shoppe, and Pie & Pastry Shoppe. A live nativity inspired visitors to pause and reflect on the "Reason for the Season". Breakfast at the St. Borromeo Church, lunch at the new Church of Christ, a visit to the decorated Historical Museum, and refreshments served by the merchants, rounded out the downtown tour. Over 400 people visited the seven beautifully decorated homes on the housewalk. People from all over the area, as well as the community, came to enjoy the day.

Much credit goes to many individuals and organizations for a great celebration. Since so many were involved, the thank-you list is long, but each deserves recognition.

Appreciation to Tina Silbernagel, and the ladies of the St. Charles Borromeo Church for serving breakfast; Heritage Booster Club-Cookie Walk; American Legion Auxilary, Angel Tree and Blood Bank; Heritage FHA; Lois Hockersmith; Homer Girl Scouts, parents and Ila Patel; 40 crafters from all over the area, Janet Driver, Cherie Libka, Dave Reel, Ken and Mona Hunter, Louise Pitts, Angie Pitts, Dallas Libka, Lacey Libka, for the Toy Shoppe, and the Driver Building; Jackie Sturdyvin and family and the Homer Churches Co-Operating; Jim Wakefield, for the live nativity; Norma Diel, and the Presbyterian Woman's Association and Fish Insurance for the Pie & Pastry Shoppe; Jeff and Kim Matthis, Dale and Nondus Wakefield, Homer Boy Scouts at the old Church of Christ, the members of the Homer Historical Society, the members of the Church of Christ for lunch; Wilson Farms for the donation of live trees for Main St.; Homer Lions and Don Hodgson for putting up the trees; Miss

Burke's Kindergarten, Mrs. Layden's 1st grade, Mrs. Lies 2nd grade, Mrs. Propst 3rd grade, Mrs. Fuller and Mrs. Hettinger's 4th grades, Mrs. Roney and Ms. Shoot's 5th grades for making decorations for the trees; Charlie Richards for the sale of 80 + tickets; Butch and Amy Childers, Dale and Nondus Wakefield, Becky Smith for flyers; Boy Scout Troop #42 for decorating the trees and helping the crafters; Mary Preston and carollers from the Methodist Church; Marilyn White and the carollers from the Church of Christ; Jim Swathwood, and Tim Kirby for caroling; Deb Happ for banners; the merchants for selling tickets, advertising, nice displays and refreshments; the Home Extension members, K.C. Jones for layouts and printing; Fred Earl for the candycane housewalk signs; Subway of Champaign for donations of bags; Shirley Miller, Linda Krukewitt, Helen Krukewitt, Gene Happ, Dale and Nondus Wakefield, Shirley Cromwell, Crystal Allen, Eleanor Smith, Norma Diel, Ruth Taylor, Norma and Marvin Vineyard, Molly Shoaf, Pat Varvel, Mary Ann Rohl, Evelyn Cope, for hosting the homes; Committee members, Molly Shoaf, Gene Happ, Jim Smith, Schelli Kirby, Mary Anne Rohl, Pat Varvel, Ruth Taylor, Norma Diel, Dale and Nondus Wakefield, Ila Patel, Cheri Libka, and a note of thanks to Joan Wallace and the Village of Homer for their help.

The biggest thank you of all belongs to the homeowners who so graciously opened their homes for the day: Tom and Sue Smith, Jerry and Connie Messman, Terry and Jan Wolf, Dale and Julie Katterhenry, Wayne and Linda Mitchell, Kevin and Kristie Wright, and Don Saupe and Mary Anderson. Many thanks to all who came out to enjoy and support the day, and to the Homer Homemakers and Historical Society for sponsoring the event.

There is sure to be another "Christmas At Home" celebration next year, so mark your calenders for December 5 1998, and come join the celebration!



Community Development Board Members

The Community Development Board meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings and make suggestions.

Stan Cato, President, (217)688-2791, term expires 12/31/98
Tim Kirby, Vice President, 896-2323, term expires 12/31/99
Kim Matthis, Secretary, Treasurer, 896-2689, term expires 12/31/98
Jim Little, Liason, 896-2843, term expires 12/31/98
Spencer Eli, 896-2099, term expires 12/31/98
Pat Varvel, 896-2392, term expires 5/31/00
Norma Diel, 896-2737, term expires 6/30/99
Troy Preston, 896-2128, term expires 5/31/00
Don Glenn, 896-2776, term expires 5/31/00
Dave Lucas, Advisor, 896-2618, term expires 12/31/98
Kelly Vetter, 896-2224, term expires 1/1/01

Homer Village Board Members

The Homer Village Board meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings and make suggestions.

Jim Little, 896-2843, term expires 4/99
Joe Humphrey, Trustee, 896-2597 term expires 4/01
Kevin Thomas, 896-2816, term expires 4/01
Orlena Pruitt, Trustee, 896-2748, term expires 4/99
Mike Johnson, Trustee, 896-2228, term expires 4/01
Mike Stayton, Trustee, 896-2181, term expires 4/99
Dave Lucas, Mayor, 896-2618, term expires 4/01

Homer Zoning Board Members

The Homer Zoning Board meets as needed at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. You may contact any of the board members listed below to find out when the next meeting is. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings and make suggestions.

Barb Gilhaus, President, 896-2237, term expires 1999
Chuck Benner, Secretary, 896-2516, term expires 2002
Stu Brown, 896-2697, term expires 2003
Ginny Dillon, 896-2719, term expires 1997
Elizabeth Rexrode, 896-2687, term expires 1998
vacancy, term expires 2000
vacancy, term expires 2001

The Homer Zoning Board has two vacancies to fill. Their next meeting is February 17, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings and make suggestions. If you are interested in filling one of the vacancies, please contact Barb Gilhaus at 896-2237 or Dave Lucas at 896-2618. Homer REcreation Board Members.

Homer Recreation Board Members

The Homer Recreation Board normally meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. This may be verified each month by contacting any of the board members listed below. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings and make suggestions.

Betty Lacey, President, 896-2365, term expires 4/1/98
Meredith Emert, Secretary, 896-2258, term expires 9/1/99
Ila Patel, Treasurer, 896-2767, term expires 4/1/99

Kate Vetter, 896-2224, term expires 4/1/99
Lynne Krause, 896-2336, term expires 4/1/99
Tim Kirby, 896-2323, term expires 4/1/99
Josh Lucas, 896-2618, term expires 6/1/99

Homer Youth League Board Members

Mike Johnson, President, 896-2228
Stacy Johnson, Secretary, 896-2228
Tom Wakefield, Vice President, 896-2347
Lisa Wakefield, Treasurer, 896-2347
Ricki Latham, Director of Concessions, 896-2088
Kevin Latham, Director of Equipment, 896-2088
Kim Little, Co/Director of Fundraising, 896-2849
Stephanie Beamer, Co/Director of Fundraising, 896-3800
Cindy Pruitt, Director of Public Relations, 896-2114
Andrea Wilsey, Director at Large, 896-2355
Jim Swathwood, Director at Large, 896-2861
Dale Katterhenry, Director at Large, 896-2647

Homer Library Board Members

The Homer Library meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings and make suggestions

Sara Essig, President, 896-2772 (H) or 896-2145 (W), term expires 4/01
Linda Pruitt, Secretary, 896-2742, term expires 4/03
Marilyn Collins, Treasurer, 896-2282, term expires 4/99
Leanne Lucas, 896-2618, term expires 4/99
Gertrude Brown, 896-2049, term expires 4/01
Jeanine Bensken, Vice President, 896-2693, term expires 4/03
Cindy James, 896-3014, term expires 4/03
All terms are for 6 years

Homer Historical Society Board Members

The Homer Historical Society Board meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Historical Society on Main Street. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings and make suggestions.

Molly Shoaf, President, 896-2549
Gene Happ, Vice President, 896-2004
Charlotte Brown, Secretary, (217) 582-2056
Evelyn Cope, Treasurer, 896-2583

Homer Home Extension Board Members

The Homer Home Extension Board meets the third Friday of each month at 12:30 in members homes. There is no meeting time in August. Everyone is encouraged to attend these meetings and make suggestions.

Mary Ann Rohl co-chairman 896-2270 expires 9/98
Virginia Baird co-chairman 896-2207 expires 9/98
1st vice chairman Pat Varvel 896-2392 expires 9/98
2nd vice chairman Bonnie Baird 896-2150 expires 9/98
Secretary Shirley Miller 896-2340 expires 9/98
Treasurer Lois Hockersmith 896-2553 expires 9/98

If you would like to list your nonprofit organization board members, please contact Kim Matthis at 896-2689 or Stan Cato at the Homer IGA.

Homer Library News

Dusty books, none newer than ten years old, on dusty shelves, "SSSHHH" signs on every wall, a librarian with a perpetual scowl on her face who dares you to speak. Is this your image of the library?

Think again! Besides the public computer with CD-ROMS, the computerized interlibrary loan capability, besides the current bestsellers, magazines, programs, and videos, there is something else we can offer—service! Because we are a small library, we can get to know our patrons better than the big libraries, and offer the extras of personalized service.

Chris's Quick Pick- *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. After seeing the T.V. movie, I had to read the book. While it was disturbing and ultimately sad, it was also fascinating and very readable, and deserves its place on the bestseller list. High altitude climbing presents unique problems, which most of us flatlanders are totally unaware of.

If you are a village resident and haven't picked up your new library card yet, stop in and get it.

State and federal tax forms and instruction booklets are now available at the library. We either have or can get most any form that you might need.

LORI'S HAIRDESIGN

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Homer, Illinois 61849
Phone (217) 896-2260

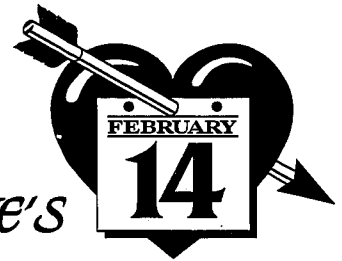
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WELCOME TO NEW RESIDENTS IN HOMER

Joseph Lowe, Peggy Upton, Kathryn Wright, Jill Oare, Ronda Bates, Karla Boutilier, Jan Schacht, Josh Westfield, Aaron Rogers, Sherry Libka, Phillip Mattox, Robby Wiseman, Richard Dawkins, Jean Renfrow, Chris Renfrow, Joan Bissel and Brenda Burnsmiers.

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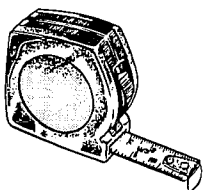
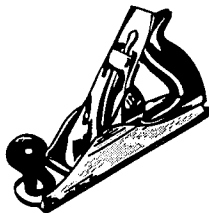
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CENTENNIAL FARM REPORT OF THE FARM OF MELVIN TRICK

Submitted by Pat Varvel
Great-granddaughter of John Trick

John Trick, born December 21, 1834, at Wurtemberg, Germany, when twenty years of age, set out alone to seek his fortune in a foreign land, and embarked on board the sailing vessel "William Tell" plying between Jarve and New York. After a storm passage of thirty-seven days, he reached New York and from there to Miamisburg, Ohio where he worked on farms for two years. He resolved to seek his fortune in the further west, coming to Sidney township and finding employment as a wood chopper. After later employment at the sawmill in Urbana, Mr. Trick then returned to Sidney township and engaged in farming with Mr. Paul Laybourne.

In August of 1861, Mr. Trick enlisted in Company I, Second Illinois Volunteer Cavalry and served in the Civil War four years and six months. He was present at the battles of Champion Hills, and Pittsburg Landing and many others. At Liberty, Mississippi, he received a severe wound in the right leg from a musket ball and this crippling injury he would carry the rest of his life.

After the close of the war, he returned to Sidney township and in 1867 was married to Miss Jeanette Laybourne. Mr. Trick purchased 120 acres and a home located at what is now 2300 East and 700 North in Homer township. Four children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Trick, George, Mary Nellie and twins, John and Nettie, who died at age eleven months.

In 1889, Jeanette Trick passes away and on February 29, 1892, Mr. Trick purchased eighty acres further north, 2 1/2 miles on 2300 East. On this site he built a large home. He then moved to this home, residing there the rest of his life with son, George, and his wife Lora. John Trick died in July 1923, at the age of 89.

George Trick and his wife, the former Lora Witt of Sidney, were married in 1893 and were the parents of six children: Kenneth John 1895-1937, Helen Ruth 1899-1992, Lorene 1905, George Melvin 1908, Olive Claire 1913, and Waneta Mae 1918.

The farm continued under the ownership of George Trick until his death in 1960. At this time, son Melvin became the owner of the farm, and he resides there today having lived all of his life in the house that John Trick built. The beautiful old home including a large picture of John Trick's birth place in Wurtemberg, Germany.

Mr. Melvin Trick is well known in this area and is expert at remembering events and dates of the past. He is proud of his strong heritage. In



Trick Family Photo

(L-R) Front row: John Trick, Mary Nellie Trick, Jeanette Trick. Back row: George Trick.

1992, the Trick farm was designated a Centennial farm. In anticipation of this event, the Trick family members gathered at the farm in September of 1991 for a reunion. The children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and spouses, numbered over 100 and came from all over the United States. A cousin, Otto Trick and wife came from Vohringen, Germany. The buggy which John Trick used, was brought out into the farm yard for the family pictures in and around the buggy.

Much care has been taken to preserve the history of this family and farm, and the buggy, sword and saddle stirrups of John Trick's can be seen at the

Early American Museum, Lake of the Woods. The World War I uniform, and other momentous of Kenneth Trick, can be seen at the Homer Historical Museum. A tape of Melvin Trick memories is available at the Homer museum also.

HOMER DIRECTORY

AGRICULTURAL

Allerton Supply Company
896-2522
1053 C.R., 2600 E.
Homer, IL 61849

Homer Elevator
896-2494
P.O. Box 138
Homer, IL 61849

Pioneer Seed Company,
896-2839
2546 C.R. 1050 N.
Homer, IL 61849

Vineyard Seed Company
896-2361
2314 C.R. 1050 N.
Homer, IL 61849

Wolf Grain Systems
896-2192
2761 C.R. 1100 N.
Homer, IL 61849

AUTOMOTIVE

Deke Denney Race Cars
Auto, Truck & High Performance 896-2119
100 E. First St., Homer, IL 61849

Don's Automotive & Towing
896-2817
202 N. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

Forward Motion Drive Train Specialist 896-2635
305 N. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

Happ Performance Shop
896-2709
6737 Vermillion West Road,
Homer, IL 61849

Homer Automotive
896-2028
302 S. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

BUSINESS/ OTHER

Jim Bell/
T-Shirt Printing
896-2018
P.O. Box 104
Homer, IL 61849

Cilco
896-2628
P.O. Box 109
Homer, IL 61849

Chris' Lawn Service
217-896-2225
2717 County Road, 1250
North Homer, IL 61849

D & D Driveway Seal Coating
896-2162
9231 Vermillion W. Rd.
Homer, IL 61849

Easton Cable Systems
896-2302
Boring, Backhoe & Trenching
Ogden, IL 61859

Ely Furniture & Design
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Homer, IL 61849

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Homer, IL 61849

First National Bank
896-2423
134 S. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

Fish Insurance Agency
896-2214
P.O. Box 167
Homer, IL 61849

The Gamer's/War Games
896-2145
500 W. Fourth St.
Homer, IL 61849

Harold's Welding/Fabrication
896-2512
203 S. Main Street
Homer, IL 61849

Homer Auction
896-2262
112 S. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

Homer Car Wash
110 W. Main Street
Homer, IL 61849

Jim's Bobcat Service/Jim Lacey
896-2747
710 S. Church
Homer, IL 61849

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

Miller Aquatics/Health Club
896-2744
P.O. Box 33
Homer, IL 61849

P & P Floors & Sanding
896-2669
2512 Homer Lake Road
Homer, IL 61849

Pelican Displays/ Cabinets & Woodworking
896-2628
209 W. Crittenden St.
Homer, IL 61849

Rocket R & D
896-3041
207 N. Main Street
Homer, IL 61849

Renaissance Studios
896-2763
502 W. 4th, P.O. Box 165
Homer, IL 61849

Salt Fork River Preserve
896-2733
2573 S. Homer Lake Road
Homer, IL 61849

Southern Ag Equipment, Inc.
Farm Equipment
896-2442
2723A C.R. 1250 N.
Homer, IL 61849

Testing Components, Inc. Animals 896-2649
10923 Vermillion West Road
Homer, IL 61849

This and That Harley Rogers
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Homer, IL 61849

Topline Farm/Horse Boarding
896-2691
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Homer, IL 61849

Uncle Boonie's Bait Shop
896-2619
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Homer, IL 61849

White's Ace Hardware
896-2412
133 S. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

Alan Wienke Auto & Truck Detailing
896-2387
2599 C.R. 700 N.
Homer, IL 61849

Wienke's Shoe Repair
896-2514
122 S. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

Wolf Realtors
896-2253
606 W. Third
Homer, IL 61849

CHURCHES
Church of Christ
896-2332
500 E. Second St.
Homer, IL 61849

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

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church
896-2021
110 S. East St.
Homer, IL 61849

United Methodist Church
896-2038
301 S. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

FOOD

Allen's Meats
896-2532
2 miles North of Homer on Route 49

Dave's Pizza
896-2123
123 S. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

Homer IGA
896-2411
103 S. West St.
Homer, IL 61849

ELECTRICAL

A.C. Electric
896-2768
401 W. First St.
Homer, IL 61849

Do-All Electric Company
896-2619
402 W. First St.
Homer, IL 61849

Dons' Electric
896-2197
210 N. Ellen St.
Homer, IL 61849

GASOLINE

Don's Marathon
896-2817
202 N. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

Checker Station
896-2334
302 N. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

United Fuel Company
Don Clem
896-2344
310 S. Main St.,
Homer, IL

HAIR CARE

Danny's Barbershop
896-2048
103 West First St.
Homer, IL 61849

Delores Richard/
Hairdresser
896-2219
306 N. Waverly St.
Homer, IL 61849

Lori's Hairdesign
896-2260
606 E. First St.
Homer, IL 61849

HEALTH CARE

Dr. Mark Faught, Dentist
896-2402
502 W. Second St.
Homer, IL 61849

Driscoll Pharmacy
896-2434
131 S. Main St.
Homer, IL 61849

Dr. Mahindra Patel
Medical Clinic
896-2491
210 N. Main St.,
Homer, IL 61849

ORGANIZATIONS

Homer Masonic Lodge
104 E. Wabash St.
Homer, IL 61849

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

American Legion Post 290
P.O. Box 134
Homer, IL

PLUMBING & HEATING

James Plumbing & Heating
896-2256
208 E. Monroe St.
Homer, IL 61849

Matthis Plumbing, Inc.
896-2689
945 C.R. 2800 E.
Homer, IL 61849

Wakefield Plumbing and Heating
896-2222
P.O. Box 136, Homer, IL 61849

STORAGE

Jeff & Kim Matthis
896-2689
945 C.R. 2800 E.
Homer, IL 61849

Store'n Lok
896-2411
103 S. West St.
Homer, IL 61849

TREES/NURSERY

Hidden Acres Nursery
896-2738
2451 C.R. 1225 N.
St. Joseph, IL 61873

Ingram's Nursery/Landscaping 896-2621
1267 C.R. 2500 E.
St. Joseph, IL 61873

Wilson Farms
896-2160
2587 C.R. 1200 N.
Homer, IL 61849

HOMER GETS FOCUSED
by Pamela Anderson, Consultant

The Homer Community Development Commission (HCDC) continues to take an active approach toward community development. Over the past 6 months, a series of four focus group meetings were conducted at the Homer Village Hall, of which two of the meetings included citizens and the remaining two involved local business merchants. The purpose of these meetings was to gather input on needs, interests, and opinions on various community development issues from the people and business owners of Homer. Each meeting consisted of 4-8 participants, as recommended by the HCDC.

The first meeting of the series addresses the issues of family, youth, and recreation involvement in Homer. The second meeting gathered citizen input on the issues of business improvement and development in Homer, and discussed ideas to improve the quality of the business climate. The third and fourth meetings invited Main Street merchants to express their needs, interests, and opinions on business improvement, development, and the potential for increased merchant involvement in the community. Information collected from these meetings was reported to the HCDC and are used as a tool in community planning.

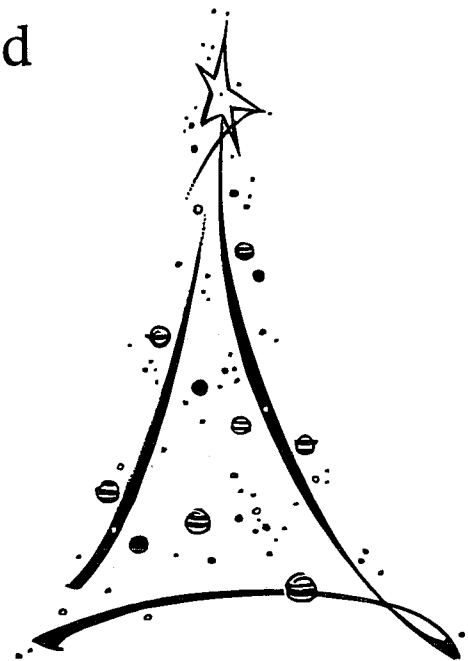
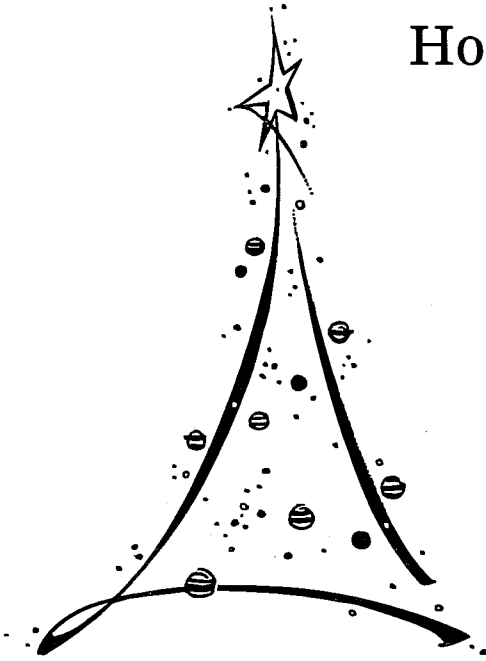
The result of the meetings revealed some of the positive aspects, as well as some barriers facing the Village of Homer:

- On the issue of citizen involvement, while there are a few opportunities for activity in Homer, a majority of recreation and entertainment time is spent in Champaign/Urbana. Citizens expressed an organized community volunteer program would help get more citizens involved. "Let us know where we fit in."
- It was also mentioned that the most recent successful events in the community have been the Fourth of July and Home Tour events. "Our own town needs more successful events as these." However, several citizens suggested the Crazy Days events needs to be revamped.
- Improvements on the quality of life in Homer was also discussed. While it was felt that safety, resourcefulness, and the quality of service provided are the greatest community strengths, a revitalized downtown, increased businesses and spending, the need for a better park, and more recreation opportunities were agreed to be some of the communities weaknesses.
- The participants in each group expressed that the major community growth issues affecting Homer are the water availability and sewage problem. In addition, communication and publicity of Village happenings from the leaders to the citizens needed to be improved. "We would like to know what is going on before something happens or is decided."
- Both the citizens and business merchant groups stated their willingness to allow their tax dollars to be applied to projects and programs which would benefit the entire community. "We would like to see growth happen, yet feel like our input is valued."

All the groups indicated that the Main Street area is in definite need of improvement. On the other hand, while it is difficult for the community to compete with the variety of goods other towns provide, Homer businesses remain competitive by the quality of services that are provided locally. "We are proud that our businesses can extend the personal touch back to customers."

Building unity in a community is an ongoing process and these meetings involving Homer citizens and local business merchants proved to be a step towards strengthening community spirit, pride, and involvement. The Community Development Commission's objective of this focus group series was to generate citizens and merchant dialog in order to have a greater insight in to identifying needs and desires of the community they serve.

Homer Recreation Board
Village of Homer
P.O. Box 74
Homer, IL 61849
December 30, 1997



The Homer Recreation board is pleased to announce the winners of the Christmas house lighting contest. There were many people who did not call to register their entry. The judges felt that there were displays that deserved recognition.

First place checks for \$50.00 and second place checks for \$25.00 are being mailed. Runners-up prize of our promotional stars are being awarded.

Homer Recreation Board- Christmas decorating
Judging-December 21, 1998

STARRY NIGHT- best use of stars

First place:	D.V. Robertson 207. E. South St.	THEME
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TOYLAND- A childrens fantasy

First place:	Joe Bear	515 W. First St.	THEME
Second place:	Burnsmier	408 W. First St.	EFFORT

NOSTALGIA- Lighting up the night

First place:	Wayne Mitchell	306 W. Third St.	THEME
Second place tie:	John Humphry	N. West St.	THEME
Second place tie:	Carmen Strawser	S. on Rte. 49	EFFORT

RELIGIOUS- Scene

First place:	Pat Varvel	202 E. Mary St.	SCENE/ THEME
Second place:	Sharon Lawrence	Schoolview	SCENE/ STAR

Judged on THEME/ EFFORT/ LIGHTS/ OVERALL PRESENTATION

Runners-up who did not register but were judged worthy of recognition and will receive a promotional star for their efforts.

Kevin and Kristie Wright-	205 W. South St.	NOSTALGIA
Don and Debbie Happ-	514 S. W. St.	A CHILDRENS FANTASY
Jim and Barbara Phillips-	403 E. South St.	A CHILDRENS FANTASY
Ernest Wienke Jr.-	511 W. First St.	STARRY NIGHT

Honorable mention goes to Ruth Taylor, West Fourth St. for excellence in simplicity, to Ray and Janet Dable for the neatest single element-tree and to Dave's Restaurant for the most original tree.

HOMER HOMEMAKERS EXTENSION NEWS

The Homer Homemakers Extension Unit helped sponsor the "Christmas at Home" housewalk on December 6 and each member took part in some way. Members were very pleased with the success of the event, and have reached their goal of funding the cost of permanent flower planters to be placed on Main Street this spring.

On December 12 a Christmas potluck and gift exchange was enjoyed at the home of Ruth Taylor. The January meeting took place at the home of Pat Varvel. A lesson on "Low-Fat Herb Cooking" was presented by Shirley Miller.

The place of the February meeting is yet to be decided, the lesson will be on Organ-Tissue donors and will be given by Shirley Miller.

Homemakers Extension is open to anyone over 18, and new members are welcome at any time. Call Mary Ann Rohl at 896-2270 or Virginia Baird, co-chairman of the Unit, at 896-2207, or contact any Extension member.



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Homer Store Closes

(from the Homer Enterprise, 2/14/58)

One of the Homer's oldest business has closed its doors. The name of T.R. Butler, and later, Butler & Robertson, has been on Homer's Main Street for 58 years.

Mrs. Anna Robertson, daughter of T.R. and wife of the late Otis Robertson, recently sold out the Robertson & Son Feed Store. The building has been rented by Bob Taylor and Wilbur Dodd, who plans to operate a used furniture business. They plan to have an auction sale once a week beginning Saturday night, February 14th.

Mrs. Robertson has operated the store alone since the death of her husband, Otis, several months ago.

T.R. Butler, father of Mrs. Robertson, quit farming in 1906 and bought the general store of Casper L. Strong on Main Street. The store carried the usual line of shoes, dry goods, Queensware, ribbons, spittoons, etc.

In 1913 after Anna Butler and Otis Robertson were married, the son-in-law joined Mr. Butler in the business. Then the sugar was sacked at the store in 10 cents, 35 cents and 50 cent packages; cookies, crackers and pickles were sold from barrels. Eggs sold for 3 dozen for a quarter, butter for 15 cents a pound, the very best coffee for 35 cents. Remember Arbuckle coffee. In the winter, rabbits were hung outside the front door, from stiff, to be sold. Oatmeal was sold with a piece of china in each box. The patterns of the china were bold, one favorite being a large red rose. One never knew whether he was getting a cup, saucer, plate or what.

Mrs. Robertson remembers how the butter and lard were kept in the creamery in the basement. When the customer wanted butter, the merchant would go to the basement, cut off a pound, half pound, or whatever was asked for. The butter was kept refrigerated with cold water running through the creamery continually.

Much sack or pouch tobacco was sold then, and tags from the sacks were saved to be redeemed for valuable articles, even furniture.

Hackaway was the name of one horse used in making deliveries. Andrew Maxwell, now of Bellaire, Texas, drove this horse and later used the old Model T Ford for deliveries.

Many a cold morning, he would have to jack up the rear wheel to get the car started, and water from the coal stove's hot water reservoir would be used in the radiator on cold mornings.

All of the Ellis boys worked for Buttler & Robertson, the late Roy Ellis included. Other were Lott Hickman, Milt Hollis, Carl and Oral White and Charles Havard, who "keep the books" for years.

After the death of Mr. Butler, the firm became known as Robertson & Son, the son being Max, who now lives in Kansas City, Kansas.



St. Valentine's Dance Steak Fry and Dance



FEBRUARY 14, 1998
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SERVING 6-8:30 PM
DANCE 9:00 PM

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STEAKS COOKED BY CHUCK BUCK

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HOMER HOUSEHOLD

BY NORMA DIEHL

Spanish Noodles

Brown Together:

1 lb. ground chuck
1/4 cup green peppers
1/4 cup chopped onion
drain off any fat

add:

2 cups uncooked noodles
3 cups tomatoes
1 1/2 tsp. sugar
1 1/2 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper

Cook 45 minutes on medium heat. Add 1 cup grated cheese last 5 minutes. Cheese is optional.

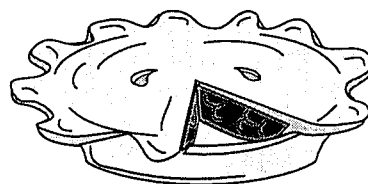
Carrot Salad

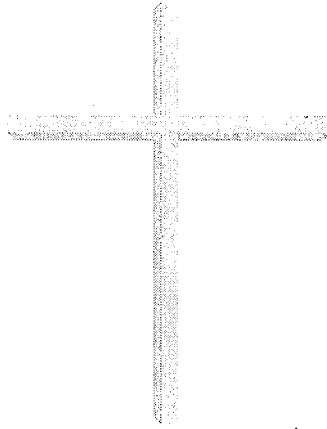
6-8 medium carrots, shredded
1 1/2 cup crushed pineapple, drained
1/2 cup coconut
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup miniature marshmallows
1/2 cup salad dressing mixed with 1/4 cup pineapple juice. Mix all together and chill.

Pink Lemon Pie

1 8oz. cream cheese
1 14oz. can condensed milk
1 6oz. can frozen lemonade concentrate
3 drops red food coloring
8 oz. Kool Whip

In large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy. Gradually beat in milk and lemonade concentrate. (Chill bowl and beaters). Fold in Kool Whip. Pour into graham cracker crust and chill or freeze.





HOMER UNITED METHODIST NEWS

Looking back for a moment, several from our church had the privilege of caroling downtown on December 6 as part of the Homer Christmas walk. We much enjoyed that and the entire day. Our thanks to all who worked on this special community celebration. Our choir beautifully presented the cantata, "An Old Fashioned Christmas" on December 14.

As we move into the year of our Lord 1998, a number of events are planned.

Youth Club resumes on Wednesday, February 4. This vital after school program has been an important part of our ministry for years and continues to be so.

Margaret Farnsworth, from Ogden, and serving as a missionary in Kazakhstan in the former Soviet Union, will be sharing with us on Sunday, February 8. Following worship we will have a carry-in dinner with Margaret sharing further. All are welcome. Our church has helped sponsor Margaret for several years, including time she served in Kenya, Africa.

The United Methodist Men are having a Valentine celebration following worship on February 15. On Saturday, March 7 from 7 a.m.-11 a.m. the men are sponsoring a pancake brunch. Tickets will be available before the

event and at the door.

The Martha's Helpers Chicken Noodle Supper will be held on Saturday, April 4. Similarly, tickets will be available before the event and at the door. We continue to offer mid-week Bible studies, Sunday School for every age and stage of life, men's and women's groups, and on 5th Sundays we worship God with services devoted to praise in music. The next 5th Sunday is March 29. Our choir shares each Sunday and is already working on the Easter cantata which will be presented on Palm Sunday, April 5. Our Sunday School Lenten Fair will also be held that day.

Come and be a part of our growing congregation. You are always welcome.

HOMER CHURCHES COOPERATING NEWS

At their November meeting the Homer Churches Cooperating elected new officers for 1998. Jim Swathwood will serve as president, J.L. Penfold will serve as vice-president, Betty Taylor will serve as treasurer and Jackie Sturdyvin will serve as secretary.

A new Mission statement and brochure is in the making and will be published soon and available at any of the Homer churches and the Homer City Building.

HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD APPLAUDS CIVIC GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF HOMER

Most recently the Homer Community Development Board set out to replace the red, white, and blue waste containers that line both sides of main street in the downtown area.

Area groups and civic organizations were asked to participate in the funding of the project. The project was well received by Homer groups and organizations, many approved and immediately gave financial assistance.

The Homer groups and organizations contributing to the project were: Homer Lions Club, Homer Youth League, Homer Churches Cooperating, the Homer Village and the Homer Community Development Board.

If you seek a member of one of these groups or organizations, be sure to let them know you appreciate their contribution—remember a small “thank you” goes a long way.

As most Homer citizens know the Community Development Board works on many projects for the betterment of the community. If you would like to get involved in helping with projects for your community please let a board member know of your interest.

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PRESBYTERIAN POSSIBILITIES

Now that Christmas and New Year's have past, may God's Spirit who sent His Son be with all of us in 1998. It is our prayer that we all may be drawn closer to our Creator and to each other; this honors our Lord, and enhances our community life.

On January 18, we held our annual congregational meeting. The budget was approved and elders elected to the session. Leaving, with our thanks, are Delores Richard, Jeane Block, and Jim Swathwood. Beginning new terms are Norma Diel, Tom Koerner, and Mike Koerner. They were installed on February 1 during the worship service. On February 15, the Adult Fellowship will meet to make plans for the new year. They will continue their sponsorship of a Native American student in Arizona. February 25 is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, a time of self-examination and renewal of our commitment to God and His church. A word of appreciation to Jodie Melton and Norma Diel who provide music for our services. Their dedication deserves our thanks.

Have you noticed the HCC window display at Wakefield Plumbing? It changes from time to time to remind us of activities and events of the Homer churches. If you have suggestions for the theme, notify your church representative; all ideas are considered. Peace and blessings.

Jim Swathwood

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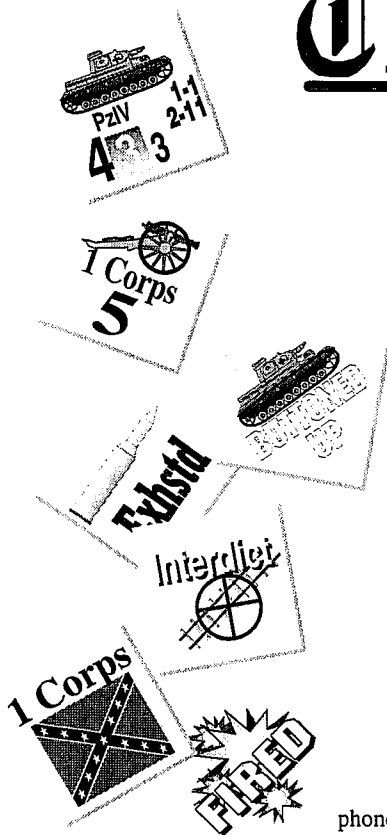
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