

HOMER



News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

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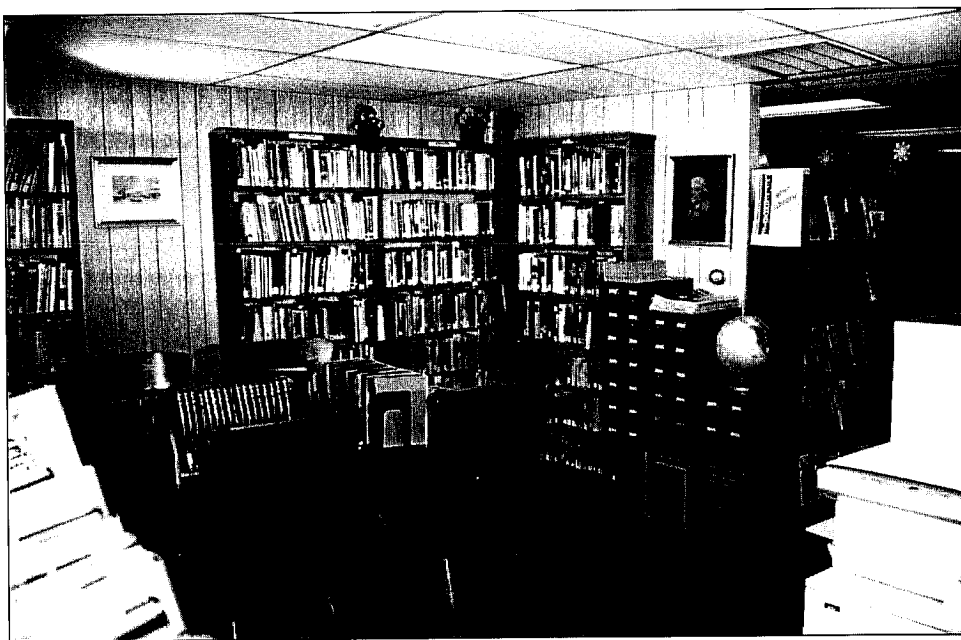
Homer Community Library

by CHRIS REEL

It was on April 24, 1971 at 1:00 p.m. The Homer Community Library opened its doors for the first time. Homer Junior Girl Scout Troop #393 did the community a great favor when they undertook the project of starting a public library. They opened the library with approximately 100 donated books, including three boxes of books from Carle Hospital. Many local residents gave of their time and resources to provide shelving, furniture, and a card file. Staffed by the girl scouts for the first two years, supervised by their leaders, and located in the north room of the old village building, the library was open for a few hours on Saturdays. In 1974, the library was moved to the present location.

Eventually, the Homer Women's Club took over running the library. On June 4, 1974, a tax referendum was passed to fund the library and establish it as a village library under the laws of the State of Illinois. The library became a member of the Lincoln Trail Libraries System. Pat Crutcher was hired as librarian; she served from August, 1974 to November, 1976.

After she moved away, Carol Rinehart was hired, and served until 1982. During her tenure, the library began participation in the Reading is Fundamental program, which continues to this day. This program provides free paperback books to children in the lower grades in the Homer Grade School.



Photos by Jim Alred, Homer, IL

Subsequent librarians include Katie Woodmansee, Julie Humphrey, Sandra Dayton, Orthalyne Ressler and present librarian Chris Reel.

Children's services have been important since the library's beginning. In fiscal year 1997-98, attendance at our children's programming totaled 526, including parents and children. This fiscal year so far, we have had 496 people in attendance, with four months to go.

The collection has grown to include more than 11,000 books, over 500 videos, and more than 20 magazine titles. Last fiscal year, we added 660 new books and discarded 540

Continued on page 3

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HOMER



News & Views

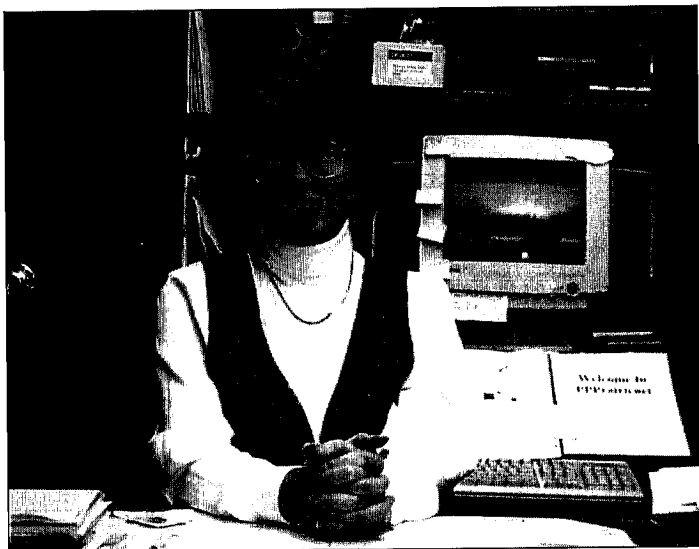
Homer News & Views is **your** newsletter. Its content and value depend upon each resident of the Community. We are depending upon you for the content of this newsletter. What this newsletter becomes is up to each of you. We need your help! If you have anything you would like to contribute, please drop it off at the Homer IGA or mail to the HCDB, P.O. Box 74, Homer, IL 61849.

Notice: This newsletter is published by the Homer Community Development Board to report items of interest to the citizens of Homer. The information included is intended to be accurate, but should not be relied upon for legal or official purposes.

WIENKE'S SHOE REPAIR

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896-2514

Your Red Wing agent



CHRIS REEL
Homer Community Librarian

we now share with the village, such as utility areas, meeting rooms and rest rooms. The library itself occupies just under 1,000 square feet. The challenge at this time is to keep the library growing, with up-to-date materials, within the restricted amount of space available.

Several local residents, who wish to remain anonymous, have given the library generous gifts towards our building fund. However, the amount in the fund is not sufficient at this time to start a building program. We do look forward to the day when we can expand, move or build to produce a more suitable facility.

The library operated with an income in the past fiscal year of \$12,248 from property taxes, \$1580 in annual grant money, and various other receipts, for a total income of \$18,666. This sum paid for the books, supplies, repairs, insurance, payroll and all the other expenses of running a library. The library receives the lowest tax rate allowed by the state, 15%. By contrast, the Urbana Free Library levies at over 50%, Champaign at almost 40% and Ogden at nearly 30%.

How do we do all that we do with so little money? What money we have is spent very carefully, books are ordered from a wholesaler who gives us a very generous discount. Cost saving measures are used whenever and wherever possible. However, there is much we can't do on such a small income, such as automate our collection and check-out procedures.

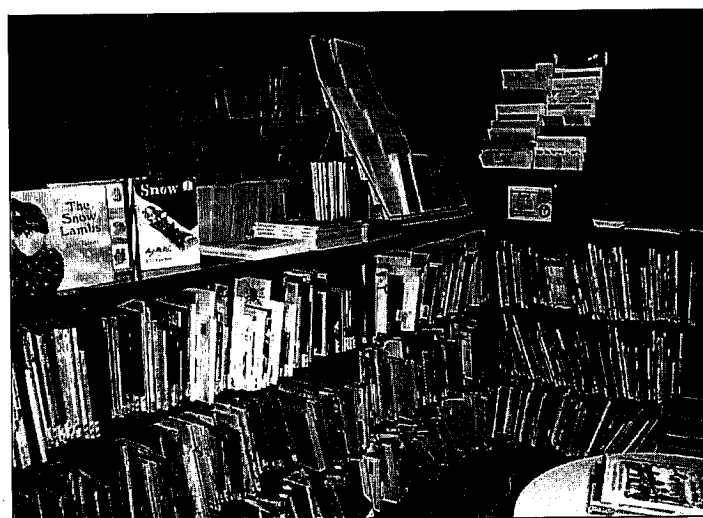
Besides the need for more space and funding, one of the library's greatest needs is for someone to volunteer to organize a Friends of the Library group. Many people have agreed to be part of the Friends of the Library, the president of the group would be responsible for organizing and overseeing projects taken on by the group. The function of the Friends of the Library is to promote the library and do fundraising.

The Homer Community Library is a local resource that is available to all residents of the village at no charge. We are here to provide information and recreational reading materials for people of all ages. We urge you to take advantage of what the library has to offer.

old titles. Some 9922 items were checked out from the Homer collection and 294 items were borrowed from other libraries through interlibrary loan. The hours were increased several years ago so that the library is now open 24 hours a week.

In addition to our books, videos, magazines and children's programs, we offer copy machine and fax service. We can sign up the visually handicapped and others who are unable to read, with the Talking Book program and Newline, free services from the state. We have a computer available for public use. A TV/VCR is available for use by community organizations in the building and by patrons to watch medical videos on site. Our membership in the Lincoln Trail Libraries System brings many benefits to our patrons, such as the books and other materials available through inter-library loan. The system also provides consulting services, training and continuing education programs.

The library is now so crowded that we have to continually discard old books in order to make room for the new ones. According to guidelines for library space needs, we should have 4,000 square feet, which would include some areas that



Homer American Legion Auxiliary News

by LORI RUSHING

The unit is sponsoring again this year the Americanism Essay Contest at the high school. The theme this year is "Old Glory — Our Symbol of Freedom". Unit members reported 45 hours of community service.

The auxiliary, along with the S.A.L. and the Legion, will be sponsoring a Valentine dance at the Legion post on February 13th. Junior chair, Deb Happ, announced that the juniors would be helping with decorations for the Valentine's dance.

The Angel Tree was a huge success again this year. We helped 14 families and 37 children. Chris and Lauri thanked everyone for their generous donations. The unit voted to donate the remainder of the money to the Homer Food Bank.

Blood Bank Referral chair, Lori Rushing, announced that blood donations are needed due to shortage of blood during this time of year.

Champaign County Council meeting will be February 13th in Seymour. Contact Lori Rushing if interested in going.

We're missing some regular columns in this issue of *News & Views*, including our church news. Let's get and keep the information flowing!

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DE-STRESS YOUR LIFE

by THE HOPE HEART INSTITUTE, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Stress. No matter how hard we try, we can't avoid the pressures of our daily lives — but we can control them. If you follow these 25 proven stress busters, you'll work better, feel happier, and live longer.

- Do at least one thing that you truly enjoy doing every day.
 - Get up fifteen minutes earlier each morning so you don't have to rush.
 - Prepare for the morning the night before: plan breakfast and set out clothes.
 - Do nothing that you'll have to lie about.
 - Keep reading material with you so you don't have to feel you're wasting time while waiting in lines or for appointments.
 - What you want to do today, do now. Procrastination is stressful. Hard work is simply the accumulation of easy things you didn't do when you should have.
 - Keep a duplicate car key in your wallet.
 - Practice preventive maintenance on car, home, teeth, and relationships.
 - Plan ahead. Don't let the gas tank get below one-quarter full, keep a well-stocked emergency shelf of supplies at work and at home, buy postage stamps and bus tokens before you run out, and start projects and reports early.
 - Schedule a realistic day. Allow ample time between appointments so you won't have to rush, worry, apologize for being late - or get a speeding ticket.
 - Say "No thank you" to extra projects at work that you feel you don't have the time or the energy for.
 - Take brisk, 30-minute walks or try some other form of aerobic exercise — an instant cure for most stress.
 - Make time for solitude every day.
 - Write your thoughts and feelings in a journal to help you clarify things and put them in perspective.
- Try to make friends with non-worriers.
 - For every one thing that goes wrong, there are 50 or 100 blessings. Count them.
 - Be kind to unkind people. They probably need it the most.
 - The next time someone cuts you off in traffic criticizes your work, and so on, don't get angry. Instead, think of instances when you've done the same.
 - Don't put up with things that don't work right. If something is an aggravation, get it fixed or replace it.
 - Before saying anything ask yourself if what you are about to say is true, kind, and totally necessary.
 - Stop worrying. If something concerns you, do something about it. If you can't do anything about it, let it go.
 - Get enough sleep. If necessary, use an alarm clock to remind you to go to bed.
 - Make promises sparingly and keep them faithfully.
 - If you're faced with an unpleasant task, get it over with early in the day.
 - Practice this relaxation technique anytime you're feeling stressed: inhale deeply through your nose to the count of eight. Then exhale slowly through your mouth to the count of 16. Concentrate on the long sighing sound and feel tension dissolve from your body. Repeat 10 times.



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Homer Recreation Board

It was with a real sense of regret and yet understanding, too, that the Recreation Board accepted Betty Lacey's resignation this fall. At the November meeting, the following slate of officers were elected: President: Meredith Emert, Vice-President: Linda Driscoll, Secretary: Kate Vetter, and Treasurer: Ila Patel. In conjunction with the Christmas at Home events, the Rec Board brought Santa Claus to town (with the much appreciated help of the Homer firemen) for the children to visit that morning. The children received Christmas pencils and were able to have their pictures taken with Santa. Later in December, the Recreation Board sponsored the house decorating contest and awarded \$50 prizes to Donald Robertson for best use of stars, Joe Bear for Fantasyland, and Larry Shelton for most traditional or nostalgic.

As we begin the new year, the Recreation Board has begun the second annual series of Game Nights every other Sunday evening in the dining room of the City Building. We play board games and dominoes and take a break for some hot drinks and cookies. The games begin at 6:30 p.m. and last till 8:00 p.m. The first night of games was January 10th, and they will continue on February 7th & 21st, and on March 7th & 21st. So if you're tired of television, or just restless to get out for awhile, join us at the City Building for some old-fashioned fun and socializing.

In April two Board members' terms expire and they have notified the Board that because of other commitments, they will be leaving the board then. This will leave the Recreation Board extremely short of members. By then, we will be making plans for the Fourth of July celebration, and even some for Krazy Daze. It is questionable whether we will be able to put on either event without some new members to help. None of the work is difficult, a lot of it is contacting people in person, by phone or letter, and attending Rec Board meetings to help with the planning of the events. If you enjoy these community events and want to see them continue, we really need your help. Call Meredith Emert at 896-2258 if you have any questions about the Rec Board, or are willing to help.

Homer Community Development Board

Committees

Following are a few Community Development Board Committees which are comprised of both board members and community volunteers. If you are willing to serve on any of these committees please speak with any committee member, Stan Cato at the IGA, or call Kim Matthis at 896-2589.

News and Views Newsletter

Stan Cato, chair
Kim Matthis
Don Glenn
Leanne Lucas
Sue Roberts
Chris Reel

Welcome Wagon

Norma Diel, chair
Pat Varvel
Bonnie Baird
Stan Cato

New Business and Business Retention

Kelly Vetter, chair
Tim Kirby
Dave Reel

Surveys and Communications

Spencer Ely, chair
Bruce Wicks

Downtown Renovation and Beautification

Tom Cattrell, chair
Don Glenn

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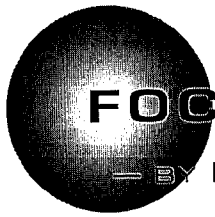
Aaron Finley, Owner

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Homer, Illinois 61849

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20 YEARS EXPERIENCE
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FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

BY NAOMI ROBERTS

DRISCOLL PHARMACY

Driscoll Pharmacy, located at 131 S. Main, is owned and operated by Doug and Linda Driscoll. They have operated the pharmacy since June of 1968; almost 31 years. While Doug takes care of the pharmaceutical end of their business, Linda runs the rest of the store. Along with prescription drugs, they also offer over-the-counter drugs, vitamins, cards, school supplies, knick knacks and collectibles, and paint ball sport supplies.

The pharmaceutical business is challenging with long hours, six days a week, and sometimes in Doug's Mom and Pop store he doesn't take time for a lunch break. He hasn't had a vacation in 15 years, but he feels that is part of the trade-off in working for yourself, and not having to answer to someone else. Being his own boss has provided him the means and opportunities to meet a lot of interesting people. Most of his customers, he knows on a first name basis. He enjoys people and this trait is easily discernible in his quick laughter and repartee with his customers.

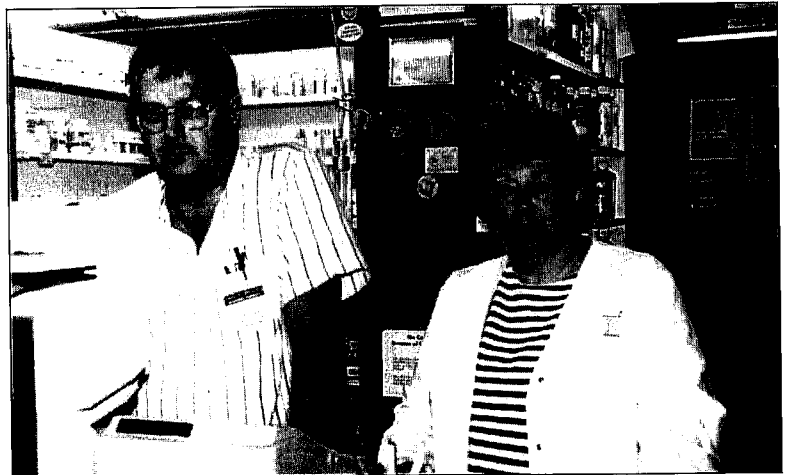
Doug graduated from Purdue in 1961, and after passing the board exam he went to work in South Bend, Indiana for two years. Later, after a stint in the service, he moved to Mt. Prospect and worked three years for Walgreen's pharmacy. After that he moved to Homer. He has been here ever since, and contrary to rumor, he is not planning to close his business. When he does plan to retire, he knows the process of selling his business to a new, young pharmacist isn't promising. There are several reasons for this. The main reason being the ever changing medical insurance professions. Now days, because of the many insurance providers, such as Health Alliance, Personal Care, and Blue Cross Blue Shield, Doug seldom gets paid more than five dollars a prescription. He must wait as much as 45 days for the balance of the cost



of the prescription from the insurance provider, even though he files the insurance claim on-line via a modem at the time he fills the prescription. Doug feels a new pharmacist will need deep pockets to process prescriptions and stay in business.

Another requirement for Doug to stay in business is 15 hours of continuing education. He is a licensed pharmacist in both Illinois and Indiana, and in order to maintain his license he must attend meetings and sometimes take correspondence courses. He stays up to date in his methods and keeps abreast of new products by continually reading volumes of information. Doug even writes articles about pharmacology which you can read in his "Pharmacy and Your Health" column in *The Leader*.

Stop by and see Doug for your pharmaceutical needs, or call him at 896-2434. Store hours are 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. daily and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon on Saturday. Closed on Sunday.



Doug and Linda Driscoll

Photos by Jim Alred, Homer, IL

HOMER DIRECTORY

ATTORNEYS

Nolan "Bud" Craver
Attorney
896-2214
128 S. Main Street
Homer, IL 61849

Marilyn K. Lee
Attorney
896-2379
999CR, 2500E
Homer, IL 61849

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Allerton Supply Company
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Homer, IL 61849

Homer Elevator
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Homer, IL 61849

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Homer, IL 61849

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Jim Bell/T-Shirt Printing
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Renaissance Studios
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Homer, IL 61849

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Homer, IL 61849

Presbyterian Church
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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

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Allen's Meats
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Homer, IL 61849

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

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

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United Fuel Company
Don Clem
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Lori's Hairdesign
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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

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Homer, IL 61849

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Homer, IL 61849

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Homer, IL 61849

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103 S. West St.
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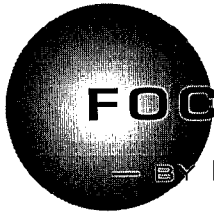
TREES/NURSERY

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St. Joseph, IL 61873

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St. Joseph, IL 61873

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

Please contact
Kim Matthis at 896-2689
with changes, deletions
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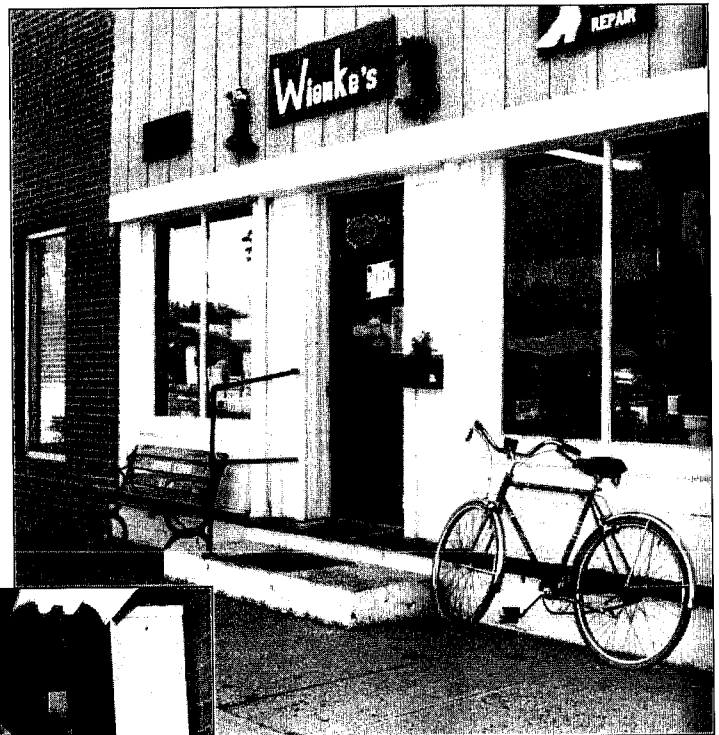
FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

BY NAOMI ROBERTS

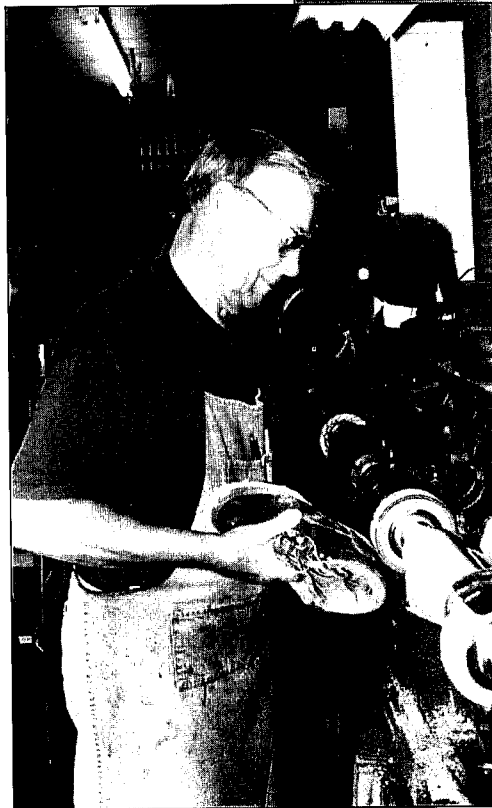
WIENKE SHOE REPAIR

Wienke Shoe Repair and Red Wing Agency is owned and operated by Maurice Wienke. Located at 122 S. Main, Wienke has done business there for the past 50 years. He began with a dry cleaning business, which he closed approximately 12 years ago. Although he still offers a dry cleaning drop-off and pick-up service, (drop off by Wednesday, pick up on Friday) selling and repairing shoes is his main business. As a Red Wing Agency, Wienke offers a full line of men's work shoes and boots, along with casual shoes for men.

As a cobbler, Wienke repairs shoes, purses, luggage, bridles, harnesses, leather straps, and just about anything that is leather. With the new cements and glues on the market today, Wienke can repair about anything. There is more to being a cobbler than just putting on new heels or soles. Sadly, however, there are few cobblers still in business. Wienke's shoe repair business brings in customers from miles away, as far as Covington, Indiana. Wienke feels the growth potential is there, especially for someone just starting a business. Wienke is more than willing to teach someone the business, so when he retires in a few years that person can take over and continue to offer Homer and the surrounding communities a shoe repair service. If you are thinking about starting your own business and would like to learn the art of shoe and leather repair, stop by and talk to Mr. Wienke. Store hours are: Tuesday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Wienke is closed daily through the lunch hour from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.



Photos by Jim Alred, Homer, IL



Wienke is shown finishing a sole replacement on a pair of shoes. Having soles put on and other major repairs could save as much as two thirds the price of a new pair of shoes, not to mention the other bonus of wearing your old comfortable shoes. Wienke's service to our community is invaluable.

Homer Household

BY NORMA DIEL



EASY BUTTERMILK ROLLS

- 2 cups buttermilk
- 2 pkgs. Active Dry Yeast
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1/2 cup cooking oil
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. soda
- 5 cups flour

Heat buttermilk to lukewarm. Take out 1/2 cup and add yeast to this. Mix sugar, salt, baking powder, oil and remainder of buttermilk in bowl. Add yeast mixture, soda, and flour, mixing well. Knead on floured surface slightly. Shape into rolls and place into greased muffin tins. Let rise until about double in size. Bake at 400 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes. Cool in tins 10 min. Remove an enjoy.

CORN-MACARONI CASSEROLE

- 1 can whole kernel corn
- 1 can cream style corn
- 1 stick oleo, melted
- 1/2 green pepper, chopped
- 1 cup dry elbow macaroni
- 1 can tomatoes (cut into pieces)
- 1/4 cup chopped onion
- Grated cheese for top

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients together in 9 x 13 baking dish. Bake 30 min. uncovered. Remove from oven and sprinkle cheese over top. Reduce heat to 325 degrees and bake 20 min. longer or until done.

POLISH CHEESE CAKE

- 2 cans crescent rolls
- 2 8 oz. cream cheese
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Press 1 pkg. rolls in bottom of 9 x 13 pan. Mix cream cheese, sugar, egg, and vanilla together. Spread over rolls. Spread other crescent rolls over top. Bake 350 degrees about 35 min.

Cover with glaze made of 1 cup powdered sugar and 1 tbsp. water. Mix and pour over cooled cake.

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 February 1999 are
S. Smith, 896-2179 and G. James, 896-2064

Sign keepers for March 1999 are
G. Compton, 896-2609 and N. Miller, 896-2340

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN HOMER

Farmer's Table Restaurant

— \$75,000. Jim Clingan Auction & Realty, Inc. 469-2500.

Dr. Mark Faught's Dental office building

— 840 sq ft, brick, central air, 2 1/2 lots, adjacent to school. \$39,000. Wolf Real Estate. 896-2253.

The Bait Barn

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

The Card Shop

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

Homer Car Wash

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

Faye's Fashions

— 109 S. Main Street, 1817 square feet \$39,900. Century 21 Real Estate

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

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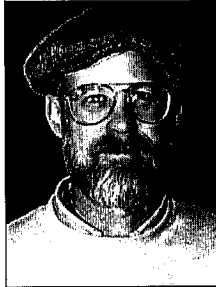
Water Sidetracked but not Derailed

Progress is being made on the water line extension and new well project but at a 'bureaucratic' snail's pace. The bid to drill the two new wells was let to a Ohio Illinois company last Oct. Due to a paperwork setback with the Illinois EPA and the schedule of the driller, the drilling has not yet begun. We are looking for them to begin this month. The bid for the water line was let to Cross Construction of Urbana last month and they are making preparations to get underway. According to Andy Kieser, the Village Engineer from Sodeman and Assoc., the snow is a plus for the waterline work. Because snow is an insulator, the ground beneath, will not be frozen as deep and therefore easier to trench. Some good news on the project deals with the cost. The waterline had been estimated to cost over \$700,000 based on an estimated cost per foot figure. The bid came in at a little over \$300,000. This savings will mean a smaller loan from the EPA and as a result, less to pay back or a shorter pay back period.

In other board news, I need to remind people that there is one year to check out your septic system to see if you are connected to the Village's storm sewer system. A resolution was passed in September of last year giving residents one year to make corrections before any penalty is assessed when an illegal hookup is discovered. If you need help in assessing your system, you can call the Champaign County Public Health Deptment. They will assess your system free of charge and make recommendation to you.

Here is a good news / bad news item. The Village Board made an offer, (that was accepted), to purchase the old 'Homer Beach' building. The Board felt that due to its dangerously deteriorated condition, some action needed to be taken. If the purchase is finalized, the building will be cleaned up and the facade will be repaired to make it safer and more attractive to the downtown. As to its future use, we are open to suggestions. There have been suggestions that we should make it a community center, for youth and senior activities. If you have any ideas let me know.

Finally, I feel I need to talk 'snow'. Last week, a truck driver stopped at the shop to pick up some freight for me. The first thing he said when he came through the door was to compliment the person who did snow removal in town. He picks up and delivers freight from Springfield to Danville and



Mayor Lucas

said our street were the best he has seen. I have to agree with him. Gary Smith, Jerry Wallace, and Jimmy Griffin , along with several volunteers, have done a great job in keeping our streets open. At our last board meeting, trustees decided to put together a priority list of streets to be opened for future snow storms. I don't have that list at the time of this writing, but it will be something along the line of the main streets, sidestreets, deadends, alleys, parking lots, sidewalks, and finally widening intersections and removal of piles of snow. The trustees are also putting together a list of volunteers and paid equipment operators, and addresses of shut-ins who need special assistance to open drives and sidewalks. This is all in an effort to make a difficult situation a little more bearable. If you are on one of those alleys, or deadends, please be patient, you will get plowed. You won't be first, but your street will be plowed.

As for the effort during this past week, thank to everyone who helped and worked so hard in difficult conditions for the common good. Is is appreciated and did not go unnoticed.

David Lucas
Mayor, Village of Homer

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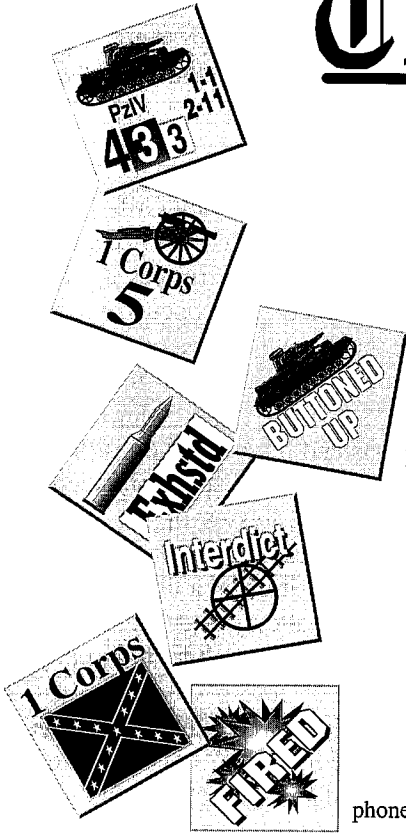
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