



ANDY PRUITT — PARAMEDIC OF THE YEAR —

by Chris Reel

Andy Pruitt of Homer was recently named Paramedic of the Year at Pro Ambulance. This honor, called the Martin Manson Award, is voted on each year by employees of Pro. Martin Manson was a charter member of Pro Ambulance, who died of a brain tumor. The award was established in his honor. Andy has a small plaque which is his to keep. A larger plaque to which his name has been added hangs in the Emergency Room at Provena Covenant Hospital in Urbana.

Andy joined the Homer Fire Department in 1993, and has been with Pro since 1996. He has six years of experience as an EMS (Emergency Medical Services). His training came from a variety of sources, some from the Homer Fire Department, some through Parkland College, and some from Pro Ambulance itself.



Photo by James Alfred

When asked what he likes about the job, Andy says he enjoys using what he knows to help people. He also likes the excitement, the adrenaline rush that comes with responding to an emergency.

He credits two people with helping him to achieve what he has, Mark Stewart of Homer, and Tim Compton. Mark, the 1998 recipient of the award, has taught Andy, both through classes, and on the job, mentoring him. Tim taught Andy in paramedic classes and mentored him as well.

In addition to his job at Pro, Andy is also on the medical staff at the Assembly Hall. You might see him there, working a basketball game or a concert. He has also

taught CPR classes to the public.

It's good to have people like Andy and Mark on the Homer Fire Department, trained and willing to help when residents have an emergency. Thanks, guys! ■

BOARD MEMBERS

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Meets the 1st Wednesday of each month at 202 S. Main St., Homer

- Don Morgan, Supervisor/Treas. 896-2197
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- Becky Smith, Vice President. . . . 896-2722
- Charlotte Brown, Secretary. 582-2056
- Pat Butler, Treasurer 896-2657
- Bill Butler. 896-2657
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Meets the 3rd Friday of each month at 12:30 p.m. in members' homes.

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- Virginia Baird, Co-Chair 896-2207
- Shirley Miller, Vice Chair 896-2340
- Elvira Wakefield, Secretary 896-2153
- Lois Hockersmith, Treasurer 896-2553

HOMER LIBRARY BOARD

Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

- Sara Essig, President 896-2772
- 896-2145
- Jeanine Bensken, Vice Pres. 896-2693
- Linda Pruitt, Secretary 896-2742
- Marilyn Collins, Treasurer 896-2282
- Gertrude Brown 896-2049
- Cindy James. 896-3014
- Cathy Lance 896-2086

HOMER RECREATION BOARD

Meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.


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- Cindy Pruitt, Treasurer. 896-2114
- Bobbi Gordon 896-2585
- Lynda Umbarger 896-2540
- Tiffany Matthis. 896-2689
- Ryan Byerley. 896-2026

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Meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall

- Greg Knott, President 896-2348
- Ray Cunningham, Secretary. . . . 896-2558
- Don Glenn, Treasurer 896-2776
- Becky Smith 896-2722
- Kevin Knott 896-3276
- Bobbi Gordon 896-2585

Everyone is encouraged to attend any of the above meetings. If you would like to list your nonprofit organization members, contact any of the CDB Board Members listed above.



HOMER News & Views

Homer News & Views is YOUR newsletter. Its content and value depend upon each resident of the community. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please drop it off at the Homer Country Market or mail to the HCDB, P.O. Box 11, Homer, IL 61849.

*Photography by James Alred
Typesetting & Design by Andrew Shreeves*

NOTICE: This newsletter is published by the Homer CDB to report items of interest to the citizens of Homer. The information included is intended to be accurate, but should not be relied upon for legal or official purposes. Opinions expressed within are the personal opinions or feelings of the writers and not to be taken as a criticism of anyone.

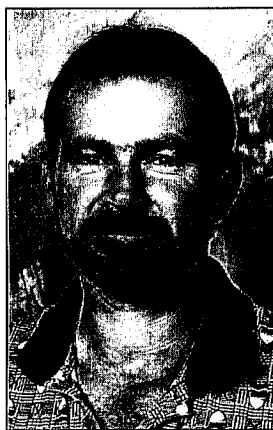
FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

— by Naomi Roberts

Matthis Plumbing

In 1981, Jeff Matthis began work in the field of plumbing. By 1987, he had his own plumbing business with two employees. For almost 10 years Matthis worked as a general contractor on new construction. In 1996 circumstances brought a change in Matthis business, and now Matthis does plumbing as a part-time job.

His plumbing work consists of small jobs, such as a remodel job, (kitchen or bathroom) or a service call. Service work is usually such things as stopped-up toilets, leaking faucets or leaking pipes. Matthis does only plumbing repairs. He doesn't do heating or air conditioning.



Although most of Matthis business comes out of Champaign, from general contractors he is acquainted with, he is more than willing to do service work in and around Homer. If you need a reference, you could check out the water park in Homer Park, because Matthis did that work. Matthis Plumbing is located at 945 CR 2800 E in Homer. You can call him at several numbers: 896-2689, 373-4089, (voice pager) or 377-0676 (cell phone). Matthis works a full time day job, but you can call and leave a message. Matthis isn't afraid of hard work. He works many long hours after his day job. Give him a call for your small plumbing needs. ■

HOMER HOMEMAKERS EXTENSION

The Home Extension Unit met in October at the home of Bonnie Compton. The lesson "Preserving Flowers from your Garden" was given by Bonnie. Members enjoyed touring her yard, patio and greenhouse to see the large array of plants and flowers she grows, dries and arranges.

Annual Craft Day was Nov 10 at the City Bldg. The morning was spent in making yo-yo angels for the Home Extension Christmas tree. The angels were placed on a tree in the City Bldg in Dec and we hope everyone enjoyed seeing our tree. Continuing Craft Day, Virginia Baird gave a lesson on "Calcium, a Lifetime Concern", Lunch was enjoyed at Dave's restaurant, and then the group met for the afternoon at the home of Pat Varvel for a going-away dessert for Norma Diel. Norma was a long-time member and will be missed, but all good wishes accompanied her to her new home in Indiana. She was presented with gifts and the afternoon was spent in visiting.

Home Extension met in Jan at Elvira Wakefield's home and Shirley Miller gave two lessons, "Putting Balance in your Life", and "Telephone Options". The February meeting will be at Pat Varvel's with Bonnie Baird as co-hostess.

This year the Unit has been studying the country of Romania. In March we will have an International luncheon featuring the foods of Romania. We are looking forward to hearing our speaker, Mrs. Ande Chesnut of Mahomet, who visited Romania. She will have many interesting stories to tell of living in the villages there.

Home Extension members have also begun a project called "Threads of Hope" which is a joint project with several other states to collect embroidery thread for women of South Africa. These low cost items will help sustain home businesses in that country and help feed families in this way.

Anyone is welcome to attend our Home Extension meetings at any time. ■

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HOMER REC BOARD

The Homer Recreation Board with cooperation of the Homer Race Team will be hosting Drag races this summer east of town off East South Street. Yes, you read right. We will be hosting Drag Races. On the 4th Saturday of each summer month — that's June, July, August, and September. At first we will be racing snowmobiles. Hopefully soon after we get this established, we will be racing ATV's and maybe other vehicles. Our Track will be 500 feet from start to finish and will be on grass. Some snowmobiles have been known to reach speeds of over 100 mph in the 500 ft. track. This is equal to 0 to 100 mph in 4 seconds. Now I've got to see this to believe it. The Homer Recreation board is hoping that this will be something we can do every year. We plan for the proceeds of these events to go directly into our village's needs. We are making this into an event for the whole family to see, complete with vendors and other attractions. So please support this endeavor if you can.

The Recreation board is also starting a mens basketball league for the spring of 2001. If you want to take part in this league, please contact Jeff Hashbarger at 896-3010 or Danny Gordon at 896-2585. This league will probably last 8 weeks one game per week. We plan on using the Jr. High Gym when time is available. This will be a "no fast break league" and we will have to help referee our own games at this time. So get your team together and lets have some fun. The community garage sale will be taking place on May 4th and 5th.

If you are interested in having your garage sale added to the community map, please contact Jill Hashbarger at 896-3010. The Recreation Board is also working on a plan to start a youth basketball league for kids from 1st to 4th grade. This will be a fun league that teaches the basic fundamentals of skills and sportsmanship. We need parents to get involved in this in order to make it go so don't be shy. As a testimony to this I had the oppertunity to coach the Jr. High Kids this past season and I can't even begin to explain how many blessings I received from this and how many doors have been opened to me. So don't pass up this opportunity to work with your kids. So, if this is something you want to do Call Danny Gordon at 896-2585.

As always we are looking for volunteers to help with all kinds of projects this coming year from the 4th of July to the Christmas house walk, so please volunteer some of your time to help your community. Come join the Recreation Board, we meet at 7:00 pm every second Thursday of the month at the village hall. ■

HOMER'S GREATEST GENERATION

PART V — RICHARD "UNK" BLACKER

— by Chris Reel —

Prior to enlisting in the Navy, Richard "Unk" Blacker had already done a lot in his young life. He married Virginia McCloud on September 9, 1939, at Covington, Indiana. He helped build Gregory Hall on the University of Illinois, working himself up to foreman by age nineteen. He spent six weeks at a Studebaker plant in South Bend. Later, as an employee at Clifford-Jacobs Forging making war materials, he was exempt from the draft. At the time he enlisted in the Navy, he and Virginia had a four year old daughter, Charlene. Nevertheless, following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he wanted a more active role in the war.

He left for basic training at Great Lakes Naval Training Center in North Chicago, Illinois, in the spring of 1943 and then went to Amphibian School at Little Creek, Virginia. The recruits learned rules, regulations and everything possible about the training ship they were on. The Four Horsemen, Notre Dame football players, were there when Unk was. Caesar Romero was a gunnery instructor at the school. The men were required to be able to take apart, clean and reassemble their guns, even in the dark. They were also issued marine knives. While the guns were taken from the men at the end of the war, Unk was able to keep his marine knife.

Unk held the rank of Boatswain's Mate. He passed the test for Chief Boatswain, but didn't get in the required number of years of service to actually attain the rank. The LSM-172 (Landing Ship, Medium) amphibian Unk was

assigned to was just one size smaller than the LST-325 (Landing Ship, Tank) which was recently taken across the Atlantic to the United States by some retired World War II veterans, including Bruce Voges of Oakwood.

On the ship manned by the newly trained sailors, problems arose in the Caribbean on the way to the Pacific



following a bad storm. The hydraulic ramp wouldn't hold the door shut and the ship was taking on water. Gunnery officer Bessmer, who thought he could do anything, and Unk, with the same mentality, carried three 75 pound turn buckles to the ramp to fix the problem with the lift. Hanging on for dear life, they put the turn buckles on and got the door closed.

The only recreation available on board ship was a record player and a few records. Captain Shapiro, a former wrestling instructor, had his own

classical records, which Unk didn't like to hear. When asked why, he replied that the Russian music made him feel like fighting.

The LSTs and LSMs traveled together at 11 knots (1.6 miles) per hour. At most, they displaced only twelve feet of water and were not considered worth attacking by enemy submarines. The Japanese submarines went after bigger targets such as cruisers and cargo ships carrying troops and supplies. However, the amphibians were targets for aircraft. The Japanese dropped phosphorous bombs which turned to liquid metal on impact. For protection, the amphibian crews lit smoke pots to create a fog to hide them. The smoke was most unpleasant, remaining in the air for days afterwards, making it hard to breathe and adding a sickly sweet taste to their food, but it was worth it for the protection.

Unk participated in four invasions, Eniwetok, Guam, Guadalcanal and Okinawa. At each location, the amphibian landing craft would land the troops first. Troops arrived in the area by way of troop ship, then transferred to the amphibians for the landing. The LSTs and LSMs would then go back to the ships, pick up ammunition and bring it to shore. Later they would bring the food for the troops.

The landing at Guadalcanal was made after it was secure.

The landing at Okinawa was the easiest. The Japanese didn't arrive for several days. The Allies were well prepared for them. Unk had never seen so many ships in one place in his life

as he did there. The heavy cruisers and battleships shot off shells that were about 36 inches in diameter and 4 feet long and went high in the air over the landing craft, to hit the enemy on shore. While unloading ammunition at Okinawa, it became necessary to back up the LSM away from another ship. But in doing so it backed over a line, wrapping the line around a screw and stopping the engine. Someone had to dive under the ship to free the propeller screw. That someone should have been the lieutenant, but the job fell to Unk instead. It was an unpleasant task; the harbor was full of trash from the action. While underwater, Unk started getting too much air from his air tank. He was only about fifteen feet underwater, so there was no great danger even though he was getting weak. When he surfaced, he found that the excess air in the tank was caused by the lieutenant, who had his foot on the air faucet, opening it up too much. All this took place while fighting was going on, and planes were bombing.

After the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki they sailed into Yokohama Harbor, Tokyo, Japan, and saw all the weaponry placed around the harbor. Unk said that if the war hadn't ended when it did, "a million men" would have been lost during an invasion of the harbor. There were bunkers, cannons and other weaponry as far as they could see.

The LSM-172 picked up some Americans, an older and more experienced division of Marines, in the Philippines and took them to Yokohama Harbor. On the return trip to Manila to take on more materials to be brought back to Yokohama Harbor, the ship ran into a massive typhoon and became out of control. The typhoon was so bad that it took seven days before the ship was back under control.

Back in Manila after the storm, Unk

was called to the war room and asked if his ship was seaworthy. There was a shortage of ships to take the American servicemen back to the States. Unk replied that it was, all except for the aft steering, which was taking on water. Friction had worn a hole near the screw. The crew was keeping the hole covered as best they could. However, the ship could sail without the aft steering. Unk was asked if the ship could be underway for the States in 24 hours. Unk replied that it could be underway in four hours. Picking up some Marines and some equipment, they headed home. They ate Christmas dinner in Pearl Harbor. Unk arrived back home in Champaign on January 6, 1946.

Unk was awarded medals for his service in the war. However, he gave them to his grandson, and they were later stolen.

Unk has many more stories to tell of his adventures during the war, stories about the meat which was supplied in great abundance but no one would eat (lamb), about weevils in flour and bread, about how the Japs cheated him out of his one opportunity during the war for ice cream. He could talk for hours. But the part of his life that he really likes to tell about began after the war.

With little money in his pocket, he returned to Clifford-Jacobs Forging. His career there was brief; two weeks after his return, the steel workers went on strike. He then went on to work for his ailing brother-in-law, who needed help on his garbage route. Eventually, Unk bought the route on monthly payments, and went on to buy out other routes. He sold off the less profitable parts of the routes. In a three year period, Unk bought out four guys. He stayed in the garbage business until his legs and hips gave out.

In 1969, he bought the tavern on

North Prospect in Champaign which is now called the Ice House. For the first year, he was in partnership with his son-in-law. Later the son-in-law sold out his share. Unk sold the tavern in 1981.

Since 1947, the passion of his life has been auto racing. In the early years, he modified old cars, some of which might have been worth a lot today if they were still in their original condition. Later, he built racing cars from scratch. He took his cars to tracks all over the United States. His racing career, with Larry "Boom-Boom" Cannon of Danville as his driver, had many highlights. He met many of the greats of auto racing, such as Al Unser Jr. and A. J. Foyt. He had the first fuel injection race car in Illinois. He set a world record with Johnny Parsons driving his car in 1973 at Winchester, Indiana, on an asphalt high bank track, which was a dangerous track. He won the longest dirt race ever won, 500 laps on a half mile track at Eldora Speedway in Rossburg, Ohio, one of the fastest high bank tracks in the United States. He and "Boom-Boom" Cannon won over 200 races in all.

His yellow car Number 47 passed the rookie test at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1970. But, as Unk said, he was a poor man in a rich man's sport, and his race car couldn't compete with the type of equipment that others raced at Indy. To pass the rookie test was an achievement for the Blacker-Cannon team, even though they didn't get to race in the Indy 500.

Following the war, Unk and Virginia had three more children, two daughters and a son. They traveled with their parents to the races. The Blackers now have ten grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren and have lived in Homer since June, 1984. ■

FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

— by Naomi Roberts

Store 'N Lok Mini Warehouses

Stan Cato, formerly of Homer IGA owns Stor-N-Lok Mini Warehouses. While Cato is enjoying retirement in Florida, Rick Bates, of Homer Country Market, manages the warehouses for him. The warehouses are located at the west end of the Homer Country Market parking lot, at 103 S. West Street.

The warehouses are rented by the month, therefore a lease is not required. However, no refund is given if you pay a month's rent then move your belongings out two

weeks later. There are three sizes of warehouses and they rent according to size. They are:

- 10 x 9 — \$35.00/mo
- 10 x 18 — \$60.00/mo
- 10 x 24 — \$75.00/mo

The renter must supply his own lock. This is the only security the renter has for his belongings. The rent is paid to Rick Bates at the Homer Country Market.

Stor-N-Lok Mini Warehouses is a low cost, low maintenance business. The warehouses are inspected each year for termites and sprayed for bugs. The building is sort of like an old fashion garage with no heat and no electrical power. There isn't a whole lot that can go wrong, and amazingly enough the warehouses are full most of the time. Bates takes names and has a waiting list. People come from as far away as Chrisman and Ridgefarm to store their belongings. Bates says, "People just have a lot of stuff and need someplace to put it." If you have a lot of stuff and need a place to store it, call Rick Bates, but remember there might be a waiting list. ■



Photos by James Alfred



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HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Since our last report to you, the Homer Historical Society held it's annual "Christmas Carry in Dinner", December 5th in the community building with members and guests present. As usual, good food and comraderie were the program of the evening with a lively trash and treasures auction adding to the fun for everyone. The money realized from the auction will be added to the society's treasury.

In memory of Ernest Wienke Jr, and in appreciation for his longtime dedication to the betterment of the society, copies of his interview were given to his wife Bonnie and his daughters Melissa, Candice and Kris along with a written transcript of the interview. Bonnie, Kris and Candace were all present at the Christmas Party where the presentations were made.

The articles "Homer's Greatest Generation" by Chris Reel featured in the last four publications of this newsletter have all been based on transcripts from interviews of Homer veterans by the Homer Historical Society in an ongoing effort to tell and preserve their WW II story in their own words. Copies of the tapes and also the transcripts are available for purchase through the historical society.

Members of the society want to express their appreciation and congratulations to Bruce Vetter on being awarded the Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award 2000 for his outstanding work with the glass negatives belonging to the Homer Historical Society. Appreciation should also be noted to the several individuals who by their awareness and foresight saved these negatives from total demise in "the dump", namely Mr. and Mrs. John Koontz, Dean Chism and to Dale Wakefield who purchased them and

donated them to the society, also to Kevin McCandless and Everett Block who donated glass negatives they owned to the society.

We are also grateful to Ray and Christine Cunningham who donated a copy machine to the society, thanks! Now when someone visiting the museum needs a copy of a document they find, we can copy it for them on the spot. The museum is open on Thursday's from 2:00-3:30. Thanks to the members who come in each week to help with displays, cataloging and other various projects.

Sunday, January 21, 13 members of the society dined at Ryan's Steakhouse and then visited the war museum in Danville. The museum is housed in the former Danville Public Library and is a wonderful facility. This building was named to the National Historic Site list some years ago. There are fabulous exhibits on many American conflicts and wars. If you get this chance, visit this fine facility.

January 24th a meeting was held which Mayor Dave Lucas attended. We discussed our lease arrangement with the Village. We truly are grateful for the support provided by the Village in our efforts in preserving Homer's history. Mayor Lucas showed us the proposed plans for the renovation of the Community Building. These plans looked great and will provide a wonderful restoration of the Opera House.

The February 6th meeting will be our annual "Dues paying soup supper" at 6pm in the Community Building. Bring an item for show and tell. Please pay your dues that night or before. Guests and new members are welcome! All food and drink are furnished by the board. This is always a fun night We are planning an April outing to the Rossville museum, watch for details in coming news articles. ■

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HOMER PEACE MEAL

This Christmas we had our first Peace Meal Giving Tree. People donated money and a dove was placed on our tree with their name or loved ones name. We feel the tree was a success. We raised \$680 toward our \$1250 yearly goal. We would like to thank everyone who participated in this successful fundraiser. Your donations were greatly appreciated. We plan to have another tree next Christmas.

We would like to invite all seniors in the area to come join us for lunch. This program is for EVERYONE 60 and older. It is a great place to sit back and enjoy a hot lunch and good conversation. All you need to do is call one day prior to make a reservation. It is that simple. We also deliver to the homebound seniors. Please call if you think we can help.

Every month we get together for monthly birthday parties. We have entertainment and or special activities. They are published in the local papers a week before the party, so keep your eye out and come join us.

For reservations, or info please feel free to call Sharon Jeffers at 896-2668 or 896-2121. ■

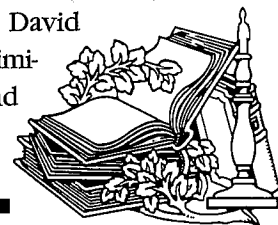
HOMER LIBRARY NEWS

On December 28, some local children enjoyed holiday stories read by library board members Linda Pruitt and Cathy Lance, and made winter-themed crafts, a Styrofoam snowman and a snowflake wreath. Several of the wreaths and photographs of the Story and Craft Hour are on display in the library.

We have information on the WILL-TV Reading Rainbow Young Writers and Illustrators Contest. If your kindergarten through third grade child would like to enter, see us for more information and the entry form.

When the weather is lousy, it's a good time for a good book, or a video. We've got both. Before you get snowed in (and we all hope that doesn't happen) stock up on materials to fill the extra hours at home.

Chris's Quick Pick: *The Christmas Quilt* by Thomas J. Davis and *Wish You Well* by David Baldacci. Two books with a lot of similarities, one by a new author, and one by a well-known writer of suspense, make for an interesting experience when read together. ■



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HOMER News & Views

Homer News & Views is YOUR newsletter. Its content and value depend upon each resident of the community. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please drop it off at the Homer Country Market or mail to the HCDB, P.O. Box 11, Homer, IL 61849.

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HERITAGE ATHLETICS

Both the Boys and Girls Basketball teams are enjoying great seasons. The boys are off to a 10-8 record and finished with a 4-1 record in their own Heritage Tournament held in December. The boys regional will be held in Arcola February 19-23. Heritage will play Arcola Tuesday February 20th at 7:30pm.

Remaining Boys Schedule:

- Feb 6 Home vs Lovington
- Feb 9 Home vs Arcola
- Feb 10 Home vs Chrisman
- Feb 13 Away at Oakland
- Feb 16 Home vs Arthur
- Feb 19-23 Regionals at Arcola

The girls have one of the top basketball teams in the area. They have started the season 17-5 which includes a 4-1 record in the Salt Fork Tournament. The girls regional will be held February 5-9 in Tuscola. Heritage will play the winner of the Tuscola-Champaign Judah Christian game, Wednesday February 7th. Please come out and support our athletes! ■

HOMER AMERICAN LEGION UNIT #290

Homer American Legion Unit #290 met for their January meeting at the Post home. Members in attendance reported 30 volunteer hours and 2 blood donations.

The unit voted to sponsor with the Legion and SAL, a Valentine's Day Buffet Dinner and Dance to be held at the Legion Post on Feb. 10. Tickets will be \$10 per person to be purchased at the door.

Angel Tree Project Chair Chris Jones thanked everyone for their tremendous support this year. We were able to help 16 families/40 children in the Heritage School District.

Each member is asked to bring cookies/candy and a valentine to the Feb 12th meeting to be divided for cookie/candy plates for senior citizens, shut-ins and area service people.

We meet at the Legion Post the 2nd Monday of each month. We'd love to have you attend a meeting if interested. Please contact Lori Rushing at 896-2260 for more information. ■

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HOMER HOUSEHOLD

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IRISH SODA BREAD

3 T. soft butter or margarine	1 t. baking soda
2 ½ c. flour	½ t. salt
2 T. sugar	½ c. raisins
1 t. baking powder	¾ c. buttermilk

Cut butter into flour, sugar, baking powder, soda and salt until mixture resembles fine crumbs. Stir in raisins and enough buttermilk to make a soft dough. Turn onto floured surface and knead until smooth, about 1-2 min. Shape into round loaf about 6½" diameter. Place on greased cookie sheet. Cut an X about ¼ through center of loaf with floured knife. Bake at 375° until golden brown about 35-45 min. Brush with margarine if desired.

KOREAN SALAD

2 lb. fresh spinach	16 oz. bean sprouts
2 cans sliced water chestnuts	½ lb. bacon, fried and crumbled
4 hard-boiled eggs, chopped	

Mix the following ingredients to make a dressing to pour over the above ingredients which have been combined in a bowl.

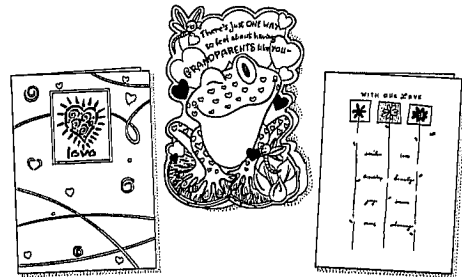
1 c. salad oil	1 T. Worcestershire sauce
¼ c. cider vinegar	1 t. salt
1 med onion, chopped	½ c. catsup
¾ c. sugar	

FRENCH BAKED CHERRY DESSERT

3 eggs	¼ c. sugar
1 c. milk	1 t. vanilla
½ c. flour	2 c. dark sweet pitted cherries

Combine all ingredients, except cherries, and beat with hand beater until smooth. Spread cherries evenly in bottom of an 8" x 8" greased baking dish. Pour batter over cherries. Bake uncovered until puffed and golden brown about 45-60 min at 350°. Sprinkle with powdered sugar and serve warm. ■

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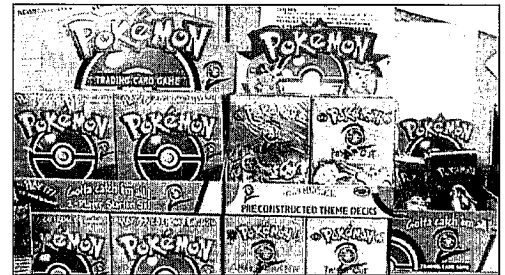
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