

# HOMER



# News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

## THE HISTORY OF HOMER SCHOOLS

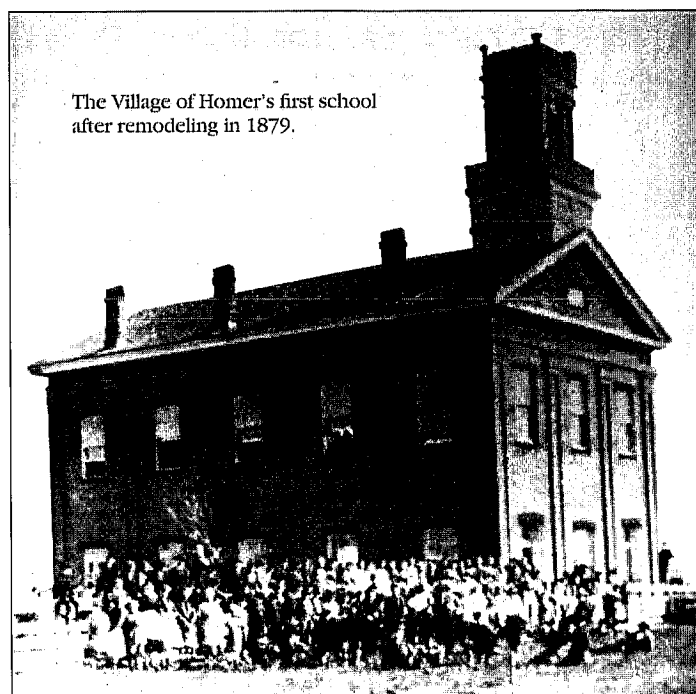
The first school in Homer Township was built in 1829 on a farm owned by Moses Thomas. The school's only teacher was Abram Johnson. The house was located 3 1/2 miles northwest of the town of Old Homer, was built of logs and had greased paper windows. There were 15 pupils and the tuition was \$2.50 a term.

The next school was a frame building built in Old Homer in 1838. The tuition was \$12.50 per semester for a student to attend and school was kept from four to six months of the year. Seats were made by putting legs in slabs procured at Mr. Thomas sawmill.

After the town of Old Homer had been moved to its new location, more people began to settle in and around Homer. The community grew very rapidly. By the year 1888 eleven school buildings had been built in what is now (1955) Homer Community Consolidated School District No. 208. Ten of these schools were built in the country within a radius of five to ten miles from Homer. They were all built on the same order, out of logs or clap boards. The seats were usually made of split logs and the desks of boards nailed along the walls. Enrollment ran from 18 to 50 pupils. The following books were used in almost all the schools: McGuffey's Reader, Ray's Arithmetic, Pineo's Grammar, Mitchell's Geography, and McGuffey's Speller. Nearly all the schools were built on ground donated by a farmer and most served as both school and Sunday school. They were:

Name	Located from Homer	Yr. Built	Consolidated
Clark	3 mi. N.—2 mi. W.	1856	1951
Wide Awake	1 mi. S.—3 1/2 mi. E.	1860	1945
Liberty	2 mi. W.—1/2 mi. S.	1861	1948
Lost Grove	2 mi. W.—3 mi. S.	1861	1948
Fairland	3 mi. S.	1861	1946
No.10	1 mi. S.		1945
Poage	3 mi. N.—3/4 mi. E.	1880	1951
Randolph	3 1/2 mi. W.	1880	1948
Maple Grove	2 1/2 mi. E.	1880	1945
Ray	3 mi. S.—3 mi. E.	1885	1945

M.D. Coffeen and Samuel Groenendyke donated the west half of block 37 on the east side of town for school purposes. (Now the Village Park). The original four room brick school house was built in 1858. It was remodeled in 1873 and again in 1879.



The Village of Homer's first school after remodeling in 1879.

The present (1955) frame building was built in 1887, housing both grade and high school. Professor A.L. Starr was the first principal. The first high school class graduated in 1885. The High School was just a 3-year institution until 1907 when it became a full four-year school. People came by train, trolley, horseback, and buggy from Sidney, Fairmount and the surrounding areas to attend the fourth year of high school. It took 90 tons of coal a year to heat this combined grade/high school building.

In early spring of 1914 five men met at the home of Harvey Allison and organized Homer High School District No.302. They were Mr. Allison, Alva Junkens, J.H. Rutan, Joe McElroy and Loren Clark. C.D. Babb was elected president. the group leased the upstairs of the Jurgenmeyer Building on the corner of Main and First Streets, remodeled it, and used it for a community high school for seven years. At the

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## HOMER NEWS & VIEWS ADVERTISING RATES & POLICIES

### RATES

RATES EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 1997 FOR NEW PLACEMENTS. FOR CURRENT ADVERTISERS, RATES PRIOR TO JANUARY 1, 1997 REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1997. NEW RATES APPLY TO PREVIOUS ADVERTISERS WHO ARE REINSTATED.

ONE TIME PLACEMENT	AD SIZE	RATE
FULL PAGE, VERTICAL	7.5"W x 10"H	\$60.00
8/10 PAGE, VERTICAL	7.5"W x 7.95"H	\$50.00
6/10 PAGE, HORIZONTAL	7.5"W x 5.9"H	\$40.00
1/2 PAGE, HORIZONTAL	7.5"W x 4.9"H	\$35.00
1/2 PAGE, VERTICAL	3.6"W x 10"H	\$35.00
4/10 PAGE, HORIZONTAL	7.5"W x 3.85"H	\$30.00
3/10 PAGE, VERTICAL	3.6"W x 5.9"H	\$25.00
1/4 PAGE, VERTICAL	3.6"W x 4.9"H	\$22.50
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10% DISCOUNT FOR ONE YEAR PLACEMENT (SIX ISSUES) PAID IN ADVANCE. ADD 10% SURCHARGE FOR PREFERENTIAL OR BACK COVER PLACEMENT. NO ADVERTISEMENTS ACCEPTED FOR FRONT COVER (PAGE 1) OR FOR PAGE 3.

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end of the seven years a new building would be erected.

The contract was let in late fall of 1927. The cornerstone was laid by the Masonic Fraternity on February 23, 1928, and the building was completed in the fall. William McIntosh was the first principal and school began in September, 1928. The old grade school had been remodeled as were most of the country schools.

In 1945 it was voted to bring the children from five of the country schools into town and form the Homer Community Consolidated School Dist. No. 208. The five schools were Maple Grove, Wide Awake, Ray, Fairland and No. 10. The other five soon followed and, by 1951, all ten country schools had been abandoned. Several of the old buildings have been sold at public auction and converted into homes.

The population of the Homer Community Consolidated School District is approximately 1700. (1955) The child census taken in 1951 showed a total of 522 school-age and under children in the district.

As time progressed, it became evident that a new addition was needed at the high school if the program was to remain on a high level. In 1950 plans were made for the addition of a farm shop and bus garage building. This building was completed in 1951. An agriculture classroom, farm shop, industrial arts shop and garage space for four buses were housed in the building.

On February 28, 1953, a vote of the people determined that a new elementary building should be constructed. In the fall of 1953 plans were started and actual construction was soon underway. During September, 1954, eight classrooms of the new building were used. In December the entire building was turned over to the district by the General Contractor, Crispin Construction Co., Chrisman, Illinois. The electrical contractor was Judd Electrical Co., Bloomington, Illinois and the heating and plumbing was done by Reliable Plumbing and Heating Co. of Champaign. Mr. Joe Royer of Royer and Davis was the chief architect until his death. After that, Mr. Davis of the same firm took charge of the \$400,000 project.

Since the new elementary building is adjacent to the secondary building, students of both buildings use the cafe-

teria facilities of the new building. In turn, music students of the elementary division use the music room located in the high school.

Additional ground was purchased to the north of the existing areas. The football field was moved from the east site to a position in the northwest part of the land.

The new elementary building contains: eight average classrooms, one extra large classroom, one smaller classroom, which is used by special groups, four restrooms, faculty lounge, office space, kitchen, cafeteria, boiler room, gymnasium and a dressing room on either side of the gym.

Plans are being made to keep the school abreast of the changing life that confronts the children. A recent development is the formation of an all-school advisory council composed of individuals throughout the district. (*Please keep in mind that most of the foregoing was written in 1955*).

#### *Odds and ends:*

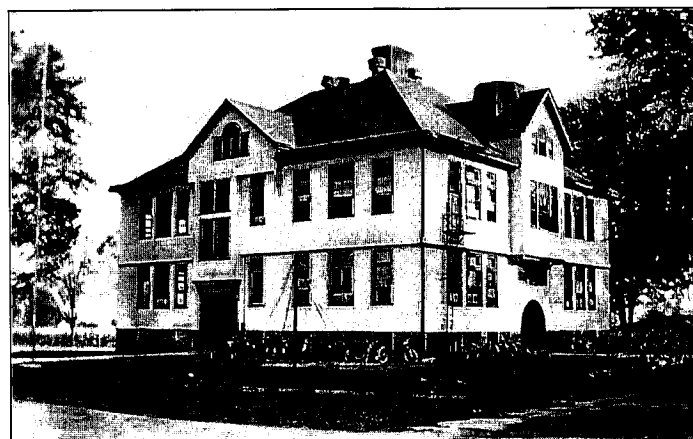
In the 1920's the girls basketball team did very well. Judging by these scores, the 1923 for boys basketball team didn't:

Homer —7 Urbana—29  
Homer—6 Champaign—23  
Homer—65 Allerton—0  
Homer—17 Longveiw—20

In 1948, Art Brown's Agriculture class planted ever-green trees for a wind break. The trees are still standing (and so is Art). Between 1993 and 1995, forty trees of different kinds were planted around Heritage School in Homer:

3 flowering crabapple	5 redbud
5 maple	7 tulip
2 linden	20 ashe

Sandy Griffin, with the help of her father, Jack Rushing, is compiling a history of Homer schools. If you have information concerning the schools you would like to share, please contact Sandy. She is especially interested in talking to individuals who attended any one of the one-room country schools mentioned in this article. ■



Shortly after being built (*left*) and years later (*above*), this frame school house, a fire and safety nightmare, once stood on the site of today's Village Park.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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

### POSTS AVAILABLE FOR SIGNS

There are two poles at each end of town that may be used by nonprofit organizations to hang banners for their events. If your organization is interested in using the poles, please do not hesitate. The Recreation board will be using them for the Fourth of July Celebration and Crazy Daze.

*Kim Matthis*

### PEACE MEAL NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT

The people who make Peace Meal available to Homer's senior citizens need our community's support. Last year this program served almost 4,500 meals in Homer, many of those went to older persons unable to get out. Participants who attend the meal site are a vital part of the program and of the community.

Homer has been working toward its annual site fundraising goal of \$1,250. To date, they have raised about \$180 towards their goal. Peace Meal not only represents one good hot meal a day, but offers those who come to the site a chance to visit with old friends and make new ones. Meals sent to those who are homebound provides a chance for someone to check on them daily when delivering their meal. Perhaps you participate or know someone who does.

Can Homer find 107 people willing to contribute \$10.00 each to Peace Meal? That's all that would be needed to help the site reach its goal. Cash donations or checks made out to Peace Meal can be sent to the local site at 101 N. Main Street, or dropped off at the site between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Donations in any amount are welcome. Memorials in honor of deceased loved ones will be noted in the Peace Meal Quarterly Newsletter. Peace Meal has been a part of Homer for almost 14 years and we hope to serve the community for many more years.

*Sincerely,  
Cathy Lentz  
Assistant Director, Peace Meal*

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# HOMEMAKERS EXTENSION NEWS

*by Pat Varvel*

Homer Homemakers Extension will be planting flowers in the barrels along Main Street on May 15th, weather permitting. A morning meeting will proceed at Norma Diel's home, with Norma Vineyard as co-hostess, when Ila Patel and Shirley Miller will present a lesson on "Herb Gardening." The club will meet in June at Shirley Miller's home for a lesson on "Presenting Food" by Norma Diel and Ila Patel.

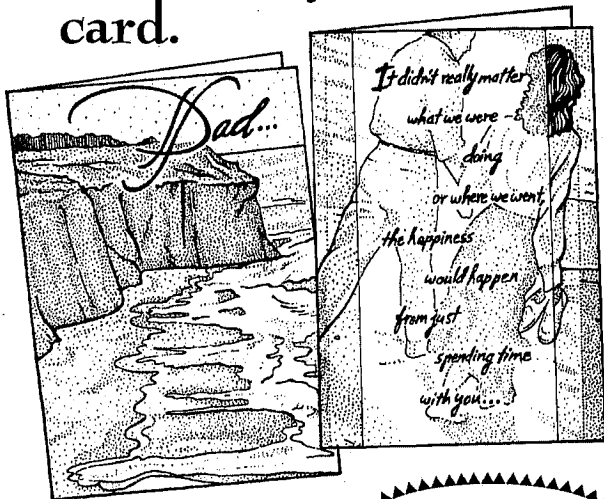
In July, members will once again be selling home made "pie by the slice" at the 4th of July celebration. Later in July, the unit will have a picnic and "day out" at Walnut Point near Oakland.

We are very happy to announce that the Homer 4-H club will be maintaining the area around the north "Welcome to Homer" sign this summer, as the Homemakers have done in the past. This is the 4-H's Community Project, and we are very proud of them. Crystal Allen is their leader. ■

# HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD NEWSLETTER

Please remember, this is your newsletter. Its content and value depends 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. ■

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Shop at the local businesses.

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

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

**HOMER  
GIRL  
SCOUTS**



Submitted by Michelle Lewis

DAISY TROOP #189

Any girls wishing to join Girl Scouts may telephone Scout Leader Michele Lewis at 896-2778 or Assistant Leader Melissa Hart at 582-2803. ■

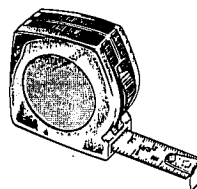
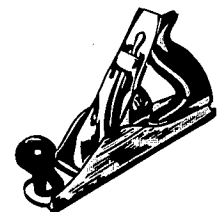


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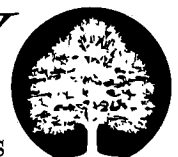


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## HOMER HOUSEHOLD

SUBMITTED BY NORMA DIEL

### GOLDEN MACARONI SALAD

- 1 cup macaroni
- 2 tbsp. mayonnaise
- ½ cup shredded carrots
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ cup diced celery
- ¼ cup thick french dressing
- 2 tbsp. chopped onion
- ¼ cup shredded cheese
- 1 small clove garlic
- 3 hard cooked eggs
- 2 tbsp. pickle relish

Cook macaroni according to package directions. Drain, then Cool. Add remaining ingredients except reserve some egg slices for garnish. Toss lightly. Garnish with egg slices.

### GOOD MEAT LOAF

- 4 cups corn flakes
- 1/2 tsp. sage
- 2 lb. ground beef
- ¼ cup celery leaves
- 1 egg
- 1 tbsp. parsley
- 2 tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- ¾ cup chopped celery
- 1 cup milk
- ¼ cup ketchup
- 1 tbsp. chopped onion

Crush corn flakes slightly. Combine other ingredients in order. Add flakes. Bake in loaf pan in 375 degree oven 1 hour 15 minutes.

### JIFFY DELIGHT

- 1 can pie filling (any kind)
- 1 box Jiffy yellow cake mix
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- ¾ stick butter

Put pie filling into a greased 8 or 9 inch square pan. Sprinkle cake mix over top. Sprinkle nuts on top of dry cake mix. Dot with butter. Bake 350 degree for 45 minutes.

**Household Hint :** To get ink stains out of clothing, spray with hair spray. Just spray on the aerosol and rub the spot with a course, dry cloth. Afterward, launder the garment as you normally would.

## CUB SCOUTS LEARN CONSERVATION

Homer Cub Scout Pack 42 has done a lot this year. They planted and donated six 10 foot high trees to Home Grade School as a Wold/Bear Den Conservation Project. An additional 100 trees are to be planted at Homer Grade School, Broadlands School, Church of Christ, and Homer Lake for a Weblos Den Conservation Project in May.

In April, at the Council Pinewood Derby, Ryan Gibson took 4th Place in Show for his home-made pinewood derby car. At the Scout-o-Rama, Benjamin Krause and Bryan Moore took 3rd place in the Science Fair for their demonstration of how volcanos work.

Bryan Moore and Benjamin Krause participated in the Champaign County Crime Prevention Seminar at the Champaign armory. As a service project related to this, the boys designed and donated six drug and alcohol abuse posters to the Homer Grade School.

Our Pack desperately needs more adult leaders to come forward to give time and attention to our younger cub scouts. The Wolf and Bear Dens (second and third grades) have no leaders scheduled to participate next year. They cannot operate next year without two adults. Volunteers need not have children in school to offer assistance.

Many thanks to Jack Knoop, Dick and Gloria Moore, Dave Wakefield, Homer Boy Scouts, Bethany Parker, Maria Danner, and Bub and Bonnie Miller for their endless energy and support this past year!

If you are interested in volunteering to help with scouting, please call Lynne Krause, Cub Master, at 896-2336 or 688-2953. ■

## HOMER CHURCHES COOPERATING

The Homer Churches Cooperating will hold Community Worship Service in the Park on Sunday, June 29th at 10:30 a.m. A potluck dinner will immediately follow the service. You are invited to bring your lawn chairs and blankets for the service, and a covered dish and table service for the dinner afterwards. This is sponsored by the four churches in Homer (Church of Christ, Homer Presbyterian Church, Homer United Methodist and St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church). ■

# HOMER DIRECTORY

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Homer, IL 61849

**Kevin Wright**  
896-2865  
205 W. South St.  
Homer, IL 61849

## CHURCHES

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800-443-6927  
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

## HEALTH CARE

**Dr. Mark Faught, Dentist**  
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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

## GOVERNMENT

**Homer Post Office**  
896-2413  
135 S. Main St.  
Homer, IL 61849



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

AUTO WAS ODD BACK IN 1910

*Reprinted from the Homer Enterprise of April, 1931*

Automobiles are so common today that few of us realize how short their life has really been. Thirty years ago the chugging, wheezing cars were just starting to run, and as late as 1910 the automobile was a very funny vehicle, indeed.

For example, it had no self-starter, no bumpers, no electric lights. If you wanted a top, a speedometer, or a windshield, you had to pay extra. The hand brake was a long,



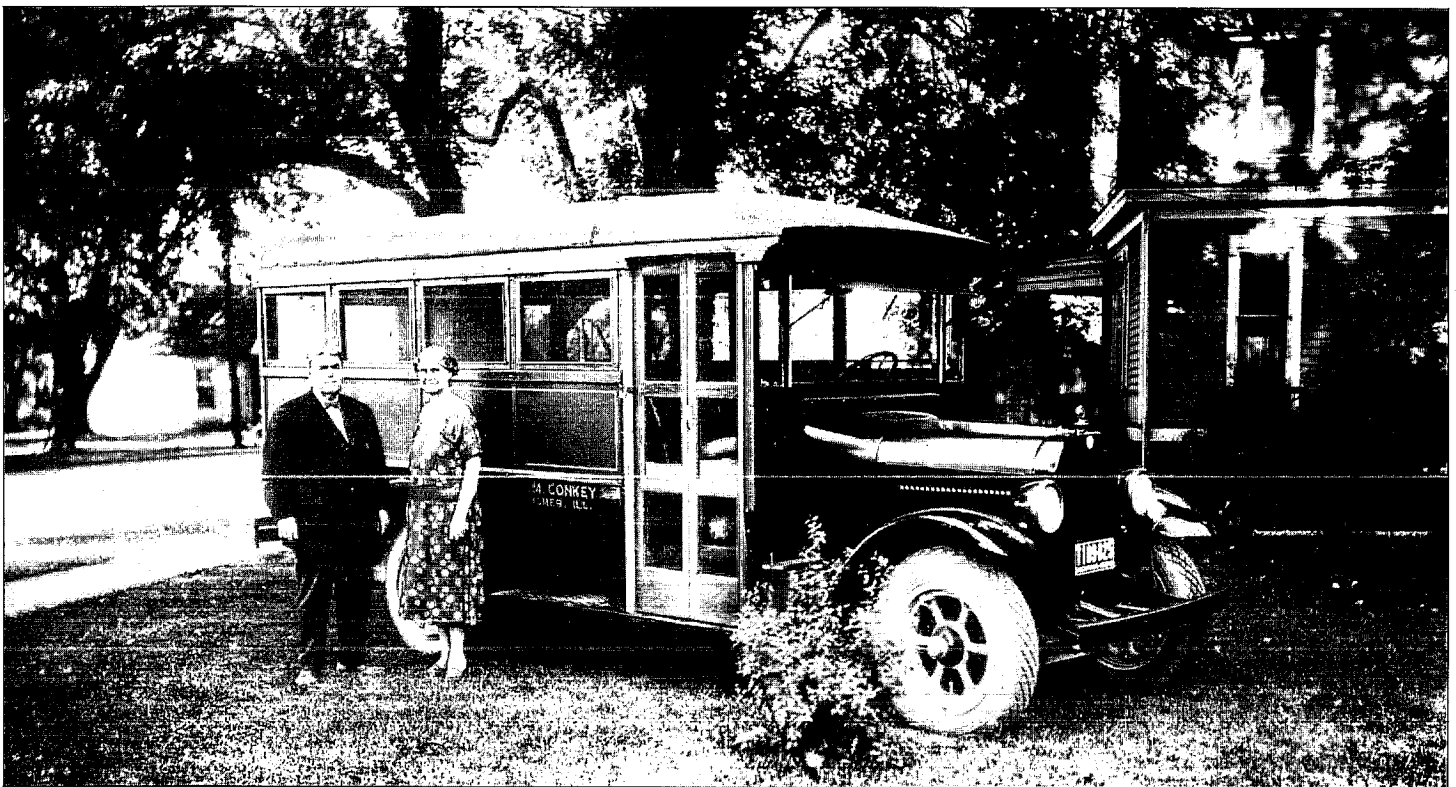
strong lever placed outside of the car next to the driver's seat. Big brass containers were strapped to the running board to supply gas for flickering lights. There was no electric horn, but instead, you had to give a good squeeze to a rubber bulb which blew air thru a curled brass horn.

Then too, the car was very high and the wheels much higher than on the modern car, with hard, high pressure tires instead of the modern balloons. Punctures were common and changing a tire was no joke in those days. When we go motoring we should be thankful for the comfortable, convenient automobiles of today.

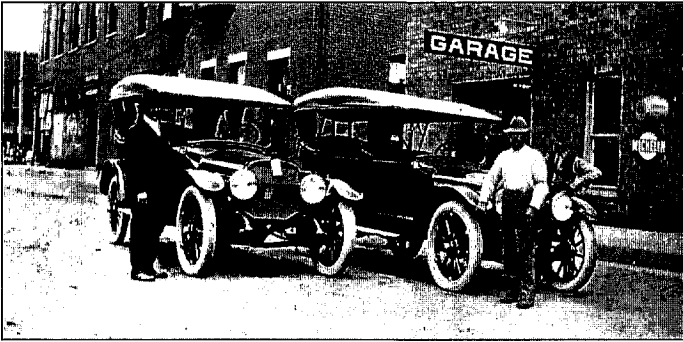
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The Homer Historical Society has preserved many of the old Homer newspapers on microfilm which are available for your viewing at the Museum. In 1892 a headline reads , "HOMER'S BIG BLAZE, THE TOWN AGAIN SUFFERS HEAVY LOSS BY FIRE." Nine buildings were destroyed and property valued at \$35,000 went up in smoke.

This fire brought spectators from near and far to view the damage. The ENTERPRISE office was spared and they issued a special edition of 500 copies covering the fire. All of this edition was gone before the final copy was run off the press. A second edition was printed and immediately were sold. Many copies were sent to distant friends and it is known that two copies were sent to England. The Society does not have a copy of this special edition. If anyone knows of the existence of a copy, please notify the Homer Historical Society.







## HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Do you know how many cabins were in use at the Old Homer Park and who owned them during the Park's hey-day? Do you know which of Homer's young men belonged to the Homer Athletic Club in the 1930's and participated in the Golden Gloves events? Do you know why the Homer High students went on a strike in 1935 which resulted in the Sheriff attending a School Board Meeting? Stop by the Historical Society Museum and discover the answers.

The museum is open to the public every Thursday afternoon from 1:30 to 4:00 or by appointment. We have expanded our floor space to the basement of the museum building and are in the process of planning new exhibits. We make new discoveries about Homer's history every week and would appreciate receiving any memorabilia or information available to further our goal of preserving the history of your community. The Society feels that Homer has a rich history with much more information to be gathered and made available to the public. We encourage anyone interested in the community's history to volunteer their time or join our Society and enjoy a journey through Homer's past history.



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Non-Emergency Calls .....	896-2396
Emergency Services & Disaster Agency .....	896-2773
If No Answer Dial (Urbana) .....	333-3826
South Homer Township.....	896-2011
Village Hall.....	896-2521
Village Hall Fax Line .....	896-2559
Homer Public Library .....	896-2121

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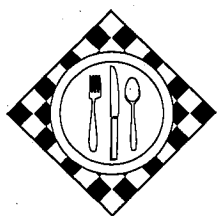
# HOMER PEACE MEAL

Our numbers have been low the past few months, but we would love to see the number of individuals increase. We serve lunch to seniors, 60 years of age or older, each Monday through Friday at 11:45 a.m.

Located in the city building dining area, Peace Meal will be initiating many informational, recreational, and just plain fun activities throughout the month, including card playing, health films from our Homer Public Library, Rules of the road, and much more!

We will also honor our volunteers, to whom we are sincerely grateful, on June 16th. June birthdays will be celebrated on June 30th and everyone is invited to come in for lunch and refreshments!

For a calander of events, information, or reservations please call Sharon Jeffers at 896-2121 or 896-2668. You need not sit home alone wishing you had friends with whom you can dine, converse, and socialize. Telephone Sharon at Peace Meal right now. You'll discover lots of friendly folks who are interested in the same things you are, who enjoy each other's company, and who will welcome you at their weekday gatherings! ■



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# HOMER PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

This month we are highlighting materials of interest to seniors. Of particular note is the set of videos donated to us by Driscoll Pharmacy. While these videos are useful to people of all ages, they are especially helpful to seniors. Topics covered include heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and many other major health conditions and diseases. Those who do not have a library card may view the videos at the library; card-holders may check-out the videos and watch them at home. These videos will also be shown twice a month at the Peace Meal program.

We have a selection of books on such topics as Medicare, health and health care, drugs—both prescription and over-the-counter, long-term care and finances.

Our collection of large print fiction books is growing, and for those whose vision problems prevent them from reading at all, we can help them apply for the Talking Book program, which is provided at no cost.

For all our patrons, we can do phone renewals. This is helpful when you can't get to library to renew or return an item that is due.

We offer delivery of books for those who are unable to get out. With the computer, we can do on-line searches for information that is not available in our print sources. And we are always ready and willing to help with your questions and requests.

**CHRIS' QUICK PICK:** One False Move by T. Otis Bunn. If you have read the books he co-wrote with Janette Oke, you will be in for a surprise when you read this one. Mix virtual reality with a Dungeon and Dragons-like game, a designer drug so potent that a tiny amount on the skin has immediate effects, a power-hungry Hollywood type and a young reporter and fasten your seat belt for a thrill!

It is with great sadness that we accepted the resignation of Sally Kates as assistant librarian. Sally has done a tremendous job and all of us who are involved with the library in any way will miss her greatly. Thank you, Sally, for all you've done for the library!

The first week of June, Chris Reel will be attending the Small Public Library Management Institute at Western Illinois University. This institute is funded mainly by a grant from the Illinois State Library and includes a week of intensive training as well as a chance to meet with 49 other small town librarians from across the state. Thanks to Pat Varvel and others who will fill-in for Chris while she is gone. ■

# LIONS PROVIDE \$1600 To HOMER YOUTH

At our last meeting in April, following a request presented by Tom Wakefield and Mike Johnson on behalf of the Homer Youth League, the Homer Lions voted to give the League \$1000.00. The money will be used for improvements to the small ball diamond, including a permanent outfield fence and a rebuilt and improved backstop.

Dr. Alan Hall, Superintendent of Heritage Schools and a Homer Lions Club member, outlined the Heritage Citizen's Advisory Council's (CAC) plan to equip Heritage High School with a "state-of-the-art" computer laboratory. Although the initial setup and purchase costs of \$60,000 will be financed from citizen donations and grant money, the upkeep of the system once it is installed will be a part of the school district's annual budget. Dubbed "The Heritage Technology Fund Drive" by the CAC, the plan is to have the money in hand by June 1997. Dr. Hall requested that the Lions consider contributing to the effort. At the May 12th meeting the club elected to give \$600.00 now and to consider an additional contribution at a later date, depending on the solvency of the club's treasury.

If you have a message to post on the Homer Lions Club Marquee for June or July events, please telephone the Lions Members listed below with the information. No personal or mercantile notices may be posted and the Club does not accept paid postings. The Marquee, located in front of the Homer City Building, is a free service provided by the Homer Lions. It is intended for use by non-profit organizations who have announcements of public interest.

Lions sign keepers for the next two months are:

June, 1997:	P. Dziuk	D. Driscoll
	896-2058	896-2434
July, 1997:	A. Hall	R. Davis
	896-2041	896-2027

Each year, during the months of June and July, your Homer Lions telephone area families to ask if they would like to renew or sign up for the following year's Community Birthday Calendar. This is the 34th consecutive year the Lions have provided the calendar to the community. Over the years, it's been our biggest money maker and the reason we're able to give generously to worthwhile causes such as those mentioned above. In fact, we estimate that more than \$50,000.00 has been recycled back into the community from our calendar sales alone. We're making a special effort this year to add new families to the calendar, so please help us help Homer by saying YES! The cost is just \$6 for a family of two or more persons living under the same roof, \$1 extra for non-residents, and \$4 for a single-person household. If you haven't been receiving a calendar, or you are new to Homer, please call Calendar Chairman K.C. Jones at 896-2763 and he will see that you are listed in 1998. ■

## BUSINESS PROFILES

# FIRST NATIONAL BANK IN HOMER

First National Bank in Homer was established December 1, 1920. At that time Homer had two banks. The Raynor-Babb State Bank and the First National Bank. The Babb State Bank closed December 31, 1931 due to poor economic conditions. Being left with one bank was a financial blow to the Homer community. However, as was reported in a March 1, 1932 newspaper article: "The First National Bank is a Homer institution, is for Homer first and last, and is ever willing to assist in any degree possible. It has shown the best certified statements of condition of any bank around here in a radius of 100 miles and a better condition than some banks in nearby cities."

Still true 77 years later, the Bank has grown into a ten-million dollar, full-service facility offering new and exciting services not even dreamed of in those early years. For example, the 1993 addition of an all-weather drive-up facility has enabled customers to easily and efficiently conduct bank business from the convenience of their cars—a tremendous benefit for the elderly and disabled. More recently, First National in Homer has established a very competitive certificate of deposit program and expanded their loan services to include mortgage, construction, and installment loans.

Homer is fortunate to have a bank that is proudly reinvesting in the community through the national Community Reinvestment Act (C.R.A.). Passed by Congress in 1977, the intent of the law is to encourage financial institutions to help their communities meet local financial needs. To you, the customer, this means the First National Bank provides credit services to fit your objectives. Further, the bank works with community groups, local businesses, and all levels of government to improve the area it services. You are cordially invited to learn more about the C.R.A. and how it can benefit you by taking a look at the informative materials available at the front desk in the Bank's lobby.

First National Bank in Homer has earned several prestigious awards identifying the institution as one of the safest, most credit-worthy banks in the United States. Because local interests are a top priority to management, staff, and stockholders, the Bank is an invaluable asset to Homer. Please stop in and inquire about any services which may interest you. Lobby hours are Monday—Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Drive-up hours are Monday—Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to Noon.

One last note, watch the First National Bank as it undergoes an exterior renovation slated to begin the week of May 18th. It's a face-lift Homer will be proud of! ■

# HERITAGE HIGH STUDENT COUNCIL

by Mandy Garrard

At the end of last year, the Heritage High School's Student Council helped out the tornado victims of Ogden by donating food, clothes, and money to those who lost so much. Even though last year ended on a sorry note, the beginning of this year began with a bang. New and old members and officers gathered together to start planning for the up coming holidays and events. The first event that came upon the council was Homecoming. The council was given twenty minutes each day to hold events for the school. One day, the school joined in for a friendly game of four-corners, another day in a food eating relay, and gave Hawk pins to the most spirited people (everyone was suppose to dress up a different way each day for spirit week). Each class competed against each other in the above competition and in a float decorating competition and a hallway decorations. In the end, the sophomore class was named the most spirited class at Heritage. We would like to especially thank the people who judged the floats and the hallways. We sincerely appreciated it. Thank You. Also, members of the council served as guides and greeters to parents during Open House. The council's next task was Halloween. The members of the council went around and judged costumes. All of those who participated by dressing up was awarded a Spirited Spirit ribbon. Good Job! During National Education Week, the council showed appreciation for all personnel by placing an apple in their mailboxes and fixing them a gourmet breakfast on November 22. The council also bought motivational banners to place around the school. On March 11, members of the student council walked around the town of Broadlands and the school to pick up trash and make the community look better. ■

## NEW MEMBERS JOIN HCD BOARD

Three new members were admitted to the Homer Community Development Board at a recent Village Board Meeting. They are:

Don Glenn, 619 W. Fourth Street, Homer, IL 61849  
(217) 896-2776

Troy Preston, 103 E. Wolf, Homer, IL 61849  
(217) 896-2128

Pat Varvel, 202 E. Mary Street, Homer, IL 61849  
(217) 896-2392

## NEWS FROM HOMER'S CHURCHES

### **HOMER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH NEWS**

*"Where Faith in God Makes a Difference"*

On Pentecost Sunday, May 18th, the Homer United Methodist Church received their Confirmation class of nine young persons ages thirteen and fourteen.

Sunday, June 1st, we honored seven graduating High School seniors and one Master's Degree graduate.

We will be participating with other Churches in the Community in our annual Independence Day Worship Service. This will be held June 29th at Homer Village Park. All are invited to attend. Vacation Bible School will begin Sunday afternoon, July 6th, at 3:30 p.m. It will continue Monday, July 7th through Friday, July 11th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. We are employing Gospel Light material. The theme this year is "Son Rise" and deals with some of God's great miracles in the old and new testaments. The final lesson deals addresses with the resurrection of Christ and our hope of eternal life through Him.

Some of our United Methodist men will be attending the "Congress of United Methodist Men" on July 11th through July 13th.

We are planing a Church campout July 25th on the Church grounds. On August 3rd, our worship service will be held at Homer Lake. Our worship hours, September through July, begin at 10:15 a.m. and Sunday School starts at 9:00 a.m. Sunday School classes will not meet during the month of August and worship services will be moved to a start time of 9:00 a.m. A nursery is provided for every service. We have classes for all persons aged three and above. You are always welcome. ■

### **PRESBYTERIAN POSSIBILITIES**

I'd like to recognize several members and friends of our congregation who have been unable to be with us, some for an extended period of time. This is to let them know they are thought of, prayed for, and cared about: Anna Williams at home; Frieda Canaday, Rheba Clark, Bob Buchanan, Inez Wilson at the Champaign County Nursing Home. Gladys Fish and Charlie Richard have experienced illness and lengthy recuperation, whom we hope will be with us again before too long. We appreciate the faith and support these people have given over the years.

Our congregation supports all efforts to improve the education of our young people, thus we have not only made a contribution to the Heritage Technology Fund Drive, but plan to give the congregation opportunity to add

to that on May 18th and May 25th. It is our school, our kids, and their education and future. I hope all of you took part in the drive.

June 29th is not far off. This is the Sunday before the "4th" and once again, Homer's churches will unite for the "Worship at the park". We have good attendance, but there is plenty of room for you too. The love and fellowship shared by the Christian community in worship is inspiring. EVERYONE is invited and welcome, not only for this service, but for the potluck meal to follow. The setting is informal, so bring lawn chairs, a dish or two and be prepared for a satisfying experience.

Our congregation also has choice seats available for our Adult Bible class that meets at 9:00 a.m. and for the worship service at 10:00 a.m. If you do not have a church home, you are welcome. For further information, call Jim Swathwood at 896-2861 or Betty Lacey at 896-2365. Blessings and Peace. ■

### **HOMER CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS**

The Homer Church of Christ is gearing up to relocate in just a few short months. God is providing so many blessings as we make this journey of faith. Several special activities are planned for the summer which includes Vacation Bible School August 3rd - 8th This year's theme will be Promise Builders to go with our theme of building a new place of worship.

Planet Jesus Club announces it's SUMMER SPACE ODYSSEY program for ages four through twelve. This program will be held beginning Wednesday afternoon starting June 11th and continue for eight sessions through July 30 at the Homer Park Pavillion from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. Our first session will be a trip to the Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College in Champaign to learn about the Universe that God made. You may register your child now by calling Mary Ellen Stites at 688-2878.

Join our Summer Wednesday Bible study for women each Thurs. from 10 a.m. 12:00 noon. This study is held at the Homer Park in town and the children are welcome to come a play. Telephone Yvonne Fulton at 896-2285 for more information.

Hey men! We still have several Promise Keeper tickets available for the conference in St. Louis, so call our office if you'd like to go.

If you do not have a church home, please join us for worship each Sunday. Sunday School for all ages starts at 9:30 a.m. and morning worship starts at 10:30 a.m. Nursery is provided for all services. ■

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## WHEN I WAS YOUNG

*Fourth in a Series by Betty I. Lacey*

Money was very scarce back then. The Aunt and Uncle whom we lived with were fortunate to have a steady income of \$36 per month from a Printers pension. The Uncle also often worked at night setting type for the Daily Illini newspaper in Champaign. A few pennies would buy a variety of things. A nickel would buy a green river, or an ice cream cone at the drug store fountain or Tracey's restaurant. Penny candy was sold from a glass case. Elizabeth Ellis told of a lady named Auntie Miner that had a whole store of penny candies.

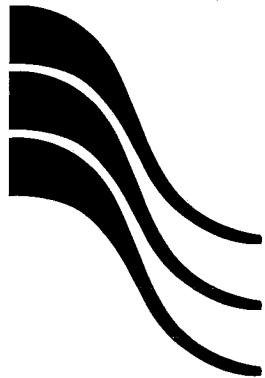
We would go "to town" to buy bread either at the "Grab-it-Here" store or at the Bakery. At the store it would sell for three loaves for a quarter or on sale for a nickel. At odd times there was a bakery in Homer. It didn't seem to be a profitable enterprise though. Each time we visited, the bakery either didn't exist or it was in a different building. The only other thing that was purchased with any regularity was milk. We'd take a syrup bucket with a lid and either go to a farm just south of town or to Mrs. Tom Maxwells house to get fresh milk. There was no refrigeration and the milk was not pasteurized. Milk was hung in the well to keep it cool.

Our clothing was all hand made. In summer we went barefoot with only had a little pair of brown sandals for dress-up occasions. We had school clothes and play clothes and one Sunday outfit. When we got home from school we changed to play clothes. The house we lived in had only one closet. It was in the bathroom and held all the bedding at one end and toiletries on a shelf above a round topped trunk at the other end. There was a hook for clothing on either side of the doorways in the bedrooms and on the back of the bedroom doors.

The only chest of drawers belonged to Aunt Alice and it held all her belongings. There was a wooden cabinet called a wardrobe where winter coats were stored in the summer. We had so few clothes, we really didn't need closets or dressers. When the laundry was done, the bed clothes were put back on the beds. Any piece of fabric big enough was used to make some kind of clothing. Under pants were made of sugar sacks because the printing would most often wash out. Flour sacks were used for slips or clothing that did not necessarily have to have the printing bleached out. It was heavenly when we got pretty new dresses sewn from printed chicken feed bags. I still have a luncheon cloth or two made of sacks.

We were never cold from lack of clothing or hungry from the lack of food, but now I realize we ate some very strange foods. ■

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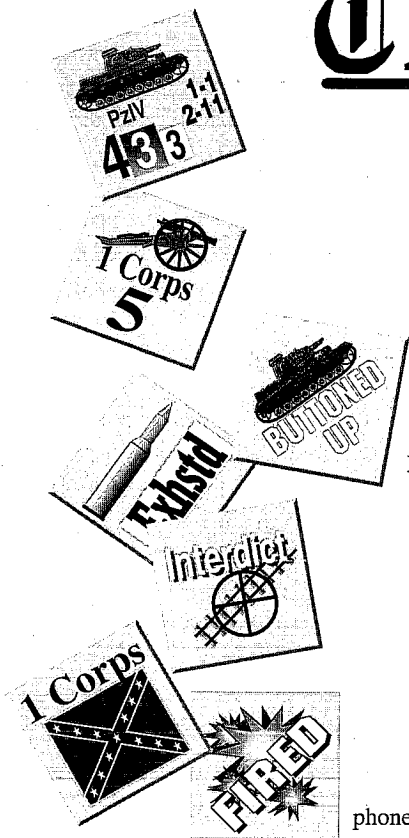
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