

HOMER



News &amp; Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

# HOMER'S LIVING LEGEND

by NAOMI ROBERTS

Most of us, when we hear the word *school* think of a variety of things such as: gymnasiums, art rooms, band, cafeterias, teacher's lounge, and of course the principal's office. When Mrs. Ruth Miller Allen began teaching at Walnut Grove school, a one room school house located just four miles east of Homer, she had none of those luxuries. She was the only teacher for a classroom of approximately 40 students ranging in grades from the first to the eighth. Her job was not limited to teaching, however; she also served as the principal, the janitor, and sometimes the cook.

Mrs. Allen was required to fire the stove, carry the coal for it, and bank the fire every night before leaving. She also carried in the first bucket of drinking water for the school. Each child brought their own tin cup for drinking. Although the children usually brought their own lunches, about once a month Mrs. Allen or one of the mothers would cook a pot of soup or stew on the stove for the children's lunches. Otherwise, lunch consisted of butter bread sandwiches or whatever was available at home.

Back then, there seemed to be a more personal touch between student and teacher that even with all of our progress makes parents and students envious of those times. Even the Superintendent was more personable. He knew the children and their parents. On occasion, he would show up at the school and listen to the teacher teach, and sometimes he would have a child read to him to see how much was being learned.

How did one teacher teach 40 students in eight different classes with ages ranging from six to seventeen? Yes, some



Mrs. Ruth Miller Allen

eighth graders were almost as old as Mrs. Allen, when she began teaching in 1923 at the age of 18. This was usually due to some hardship in the student's family, but no matter what happened, or caused the delay, children still went to school whenever possible.

Well-disciplined students allowed Mrs. Allen to do her job well. She said, "Back then children still wanted to learn. They weren't mean. They weren't babies, and they were more responsible."

If there ever was a disciplinary problem, all Mrs. Allen had to do was speak to the parents.

Good discipline was taught by the parents, and they took pride in their child's 'good' behavior, as well as taking responsibility when the child misbehaved.

It was a time when the teacher, students, and families worked together as a unit. Sometimes when Allen would be teaching the fifth and sixth grade students, an eighth grader might help a third grader read his lesson. So even though the school lacked the basic luxuries we have today, (electricity and running water) they had the basics of what it took to have a good community life.

In a small school when something happens to one it happens to all. If measles ran through the school so that only a few students could attend, the school was closed. There were no inoculations for measles.

Most people lived close to the school, and in bad, winter weather this was a great help for the teacher. People boarded the teachers through the week and on the weekend the teacher would go home and come back again on Monday.

*Continued on page 3*

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It saved the teacher from having to struggle through the winter snow to get home.

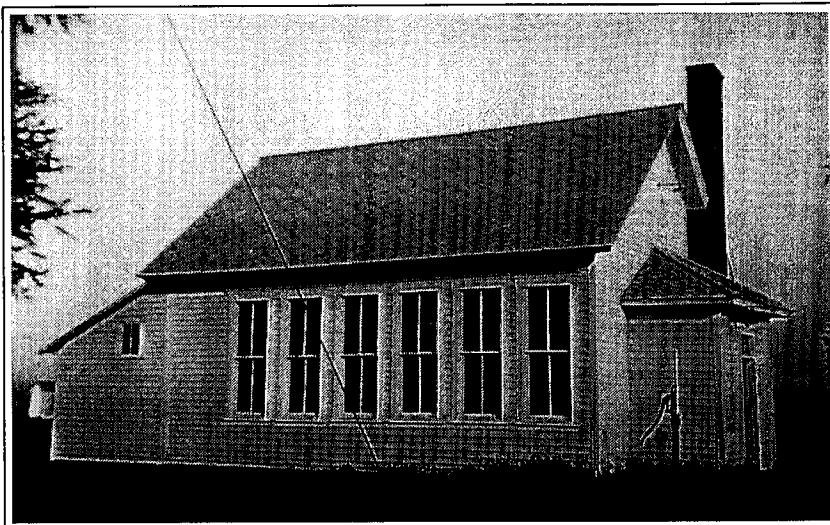
People just helped people more back then. When a child's family couldn't afford pencils or other supplies required for school or even clothes, people chipped in to help them. There weren't many extra supplies, however, because they were too expensive, even something as simple as paper. They used blackboards instead of paper. All homework was done on the blackboard, which offered little excuse for not doing homework.

For all Mrs. Allen's challenges and hard work, she never felt underpaid. In her first teaching position, a position a man had held before her, she was paid \$95.00 a month. Although the male teacher had been paid \$100.00 a month to do the same job she never felt a gender bias in pay. She usually got a little more, because she taught in the more difficult schools.

In 1940 Ray Litherland wrote his thesis on the Advantages of the Consolidated School. In his thesis he stated "The fact that all roads lead to a trading center is not a bad thing..." When Litherland wrote these words, most country roads already led to the trading center; Homer, because children in the district, but not living in Homer went to grade school at one of the 13 schools, such as Larned, Lost Grove, or Liberty, but all of the students went to high school in Homer.

For some students, like Donald Baird of Homer, the move to a Homer school was a little scary. Even though he went to grade school at Lost Grove, just a few miles south and west of Homer, the change seemed a bit larger. Harold Kilian, who went to school at Larned, south of Homer, yet closer to Broadlands didn't know where Homer was located. His family's trade center was in Broadlands. But not all found the change disconcerting. Kent Lee's family came to Homer at least once a week, so his change from Liberty Grade School to Homer High wasn't a real big deal.

Mrs. Allen, who had taught at Walnut Grove, Wide Awake, Randolph, and Ray schools, was an old hand at change. By the time the consolidation began in 1945 and she began



Old #10 School

teaching at Old Homer Grade School in 1947, (located where the park is now) it seemed like just one more change.

Mrs. Allen's teaching position in Homer, however, was a pivotal point in her career. Everything changed, even the church she attended.

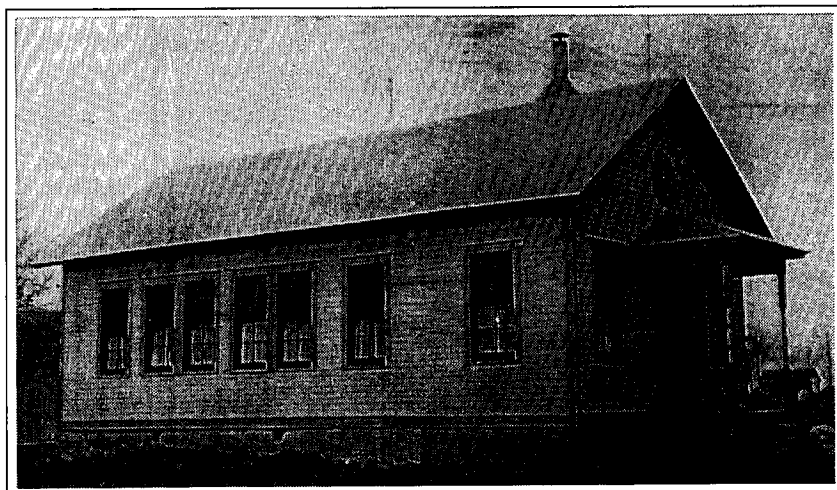
It was the first time in her career that she taught third and fourth grade children that could not read. Allen said, "if a child didn't get the reading, it didn't hurt the child to repeat a grade. In the first three or four grades they get a good basis of learning." Mrs. Allen believed strongly in learning. Every summer, for approximately eight to twelve weeks she went back to school to continue her own education. Mrs. Allen has a Master's degree in Education.

Allen began teaching at Homer Grade School in a combination class of third and fourth graders, then for a time she taught seventh grade. It was easy for her to make these changes, because a country school teacher knew all subjects. She finally moved to the fifth grade class and there she remained. She liked the fifth grade class, because due to the subjects she taught, she got to travel across the nation from the east coast to the west coast.

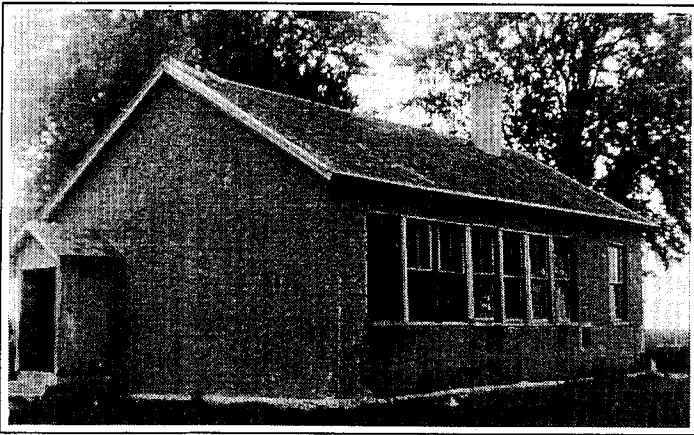
Studies in the classrooms no doubt seemed easier, because the children were the same age, even though the studies were virtually the same: arithmetic, reading, geography, and history. When the schools incorporated geography and history together and called it Social Studies, Mrs. Allen thinks they did the children a disservice. She said, "Now people don't know history and they don't know where countries are located.

The grading system was a percentage system. You added the points and divided by the number of tests. There was no sex education taught in school like there is today. That was left up to the parents. The most high-tech invention that came along in Allen's teaching career were movies in the school. For the most part Allen said there weren't

*continued on page 4*



Larned School



**Liberty School**

many differences between teaching then and now. They didn't miss the luxuries because they didn't have them. You have to have had something in order to miss it.

Children weren't all that different than they are now either. There were very few students that Allen couldn't teach. Most of the students were enthusiastic about learning, and energetic about play. They played games and 'Handy-over' seemed to be the game of choice for one room schools. It was a ball game where one child would throw a ball over the top of the school and whoever caught it on the other side would run around the school and tag another person and play would start all over again.

As for teachers teaching the youth of today, Mrs. Allen would offer one bit of advice, "Don't take your work home with you. Whatever happens at school, leave it at school."

At 93 years old, Mrs. Allen is definitely a living legend, because few people are able to say they taught in a one-room school. Even the schools are few. Of the 13 original grade schools in the Homer district, only three remain in their original location. They are now used as residential properties. The three schools are Poague, Old #10, and Randolph. Poague is 3 miles north of Homer and a half mile east of Homer. Old #10 is 1 mile south of Homer and Randolph is west of Homer just past Charlie Leuty's place. If you want to see a little bit of Homer history, or if you're just feeling a little nostalgic, drive by and take a look.

## Homer Peace Meal

The Peace Meal would like to invite all seniors; 60+ to join us for lunch. We serve Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. We would love to see some new faces. We are now offering free blood pressure checks once a month. We would like to thank Julie Katterhenry for providing us with this service. We are also starting our Christmas crafts for this years house-walk. Home delivered meals are also available to those who qualify. If you would like to join us, or need more information, please feel free to call Sharon Jeffers at 896-2121 or 896-2668.

We would also like to invite the public to our 1999 fundraiser on October 24th. We will be serving chili and soup and playing bingo. More information will be available soon.

# Homer Community Development Board

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688-2791, term expires 12/31/98

**Tim Kirby, Vice President**  
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**Kim Matthis, Secretary/Treasurer**  
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**Spencer Ely**  
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**Pat Varvel**  
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**Don Glenn**  
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**Kelly Vetter**  
896-2224, term expires 1/1/01



*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.

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## **TOWN MEETING**

October 26, 1998

7:00 P.M.

Homer Village Hall

### **– On the Agenda –**

- Community Survey Results
  - Water Project Update
  - TIF Update
- Community Development Board Agenda For 1999
- Question and Answer Session

**GET INVOLVED – PLAN TO ATTEND**

## **Junior Girl Scouts #359**

Our 1997-98 year finished with great success and lots of fun activities. Christmas time we provided free day care on our town's Christmas Housewalk day. We made sand art candles, Christmas ornaments, learned new songs and in the spring time we went to Six Flags Great America in Chicago. Everybody had a wonderful time. Our troop went to core camp in September at camp WA-HA-NA-HA at Gilman, IL.

We had a float in the parade on Krazy Daze. All the troops from Homer joined in for that event.

After summer fun our 1998-99 year started. We will have our troop registration soon. Whoever wants to join our junior troop from 4th and 5th grade, please call Ila Patel at 896-2767.

If you are interested in volunteering to help with Girl Scout activities, please call Ila. Volunteers need not have children in the troop.

### **VEHICLE STORAGE SPACE**

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## **MARQUEE SIGN KEEPERS**

If you have a message to post on the Homer Lions Club Marquee for June events, please telephone the Lions Members listed below with the information. 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 nonprofit organizations who have announcements of public interest.

Sign keepers for October are  
D. Clem, 896-2344 and D. Freeman, 896-2833

Sign keepers for November are  
T. Kirby, 896-2323 and D. Morgan, 896-2197

## **FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF HOMER**

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## Homer Lodge #199 News

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Homer Lodge Number 199 A.F. and A.M. was chartered on October 7, 1856 A.L. 5856 by Illinois Grand Lodge, Springfield, Illinois. Construction on the Homer Masonic building was started July, 1892 and completed on April 18, 1893. Dedication ceremonies were held on April 8, 1893. The location of Homer Lodge Number 199 meetings between October 7, 1856 and April 18, 1893 is unknown. During 1894, Citizens Bank rented and occupied the southwest corner room for a period of years. Since October, 1932, United States Postal Service has occupied the southwest corner room on the first floor. The remaining first floor has been occupied by a Hardware business since the completion of the construction of the Masonic building. One of the virtues of the Masonic Fraternity is charity. With this thought, Homer Lodge Number 199 has contributed monetary funds to assist local organizations and our Masonic charities. This past year contributions to Homer Fire Department Rescue Squad; to Homer Youth League, to Heritage High School Post-Prom Committee, Scholarship to Miss Linda Lee, 1998 Vale-

dicatorian of Heritage High School and to Miss Tara Jenkins Benefit Fund. Contributions from Homer Lodge Number 199 and members to the Illinois Masonic Home Endowment (Illinois Masonic Home at Sullivan and Illinois Masonic Children's Home at La Grange); Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program and to grand Assembly of Rain Bow Girls. Improvements to our building were made this past year — a new ceiling and the electrical updated were installed in the Homer Post Office, also Heating and air conditioning units were installed in White's Ace Hardware.

The current officers of Homer Lodge number 199 installed on June 27, 1998 are: Arthur M. Chrestman, Worshipful Master; John D. Danner, Senior Warden; Jeffrey A. Stineman, Junior Warden; Marlin H. Brown, Treasurer; Willard Morrison, Secretary; Michael O. Webb, Chaplain; Donald Hodgson, Senior Deacon; Charles C. Fritz, Jr., Junior Deacon; David L. McCoy, Senior Steward; Donald A. Glenn, Sr., Junior Steward; Marion Woodside, Marshal and James J. Taeger, Tyler.

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## L I ' L H A W K S P R E - S C H O O L

The child care class at Heritage High School will be holding a preschool for area children potty trained to age 5. We will be starting our preschool on October 6th and will go through May. One week we will have our class on Tuesday/Thursday and the next week Thursday/Friday from 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. During November and December, we will also meet on Wednesdays.

In our sessions we will be covering art, reading and math skills. These sessions will not only help your child develop skills, but also develop social skills. We will also provide a

daily snack. If you would like to bring a snack on your child's birthday that would be fine. The cost is \$1.00 per day payable the first class of the month.

If you are interested, please call the high school at 834-3392 or send us the information to: Ina Brown in care of Heritage High School, 206 Diller, Broadlands, IL 61816. Leave your name, child's name, birth date, your address and any allergies that your child may have. Also your telephone number where you can be reached during the school day.

Parent's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of person responsible for picking child up: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/medical problems: \_\_\_\_\_

In case of emergency, contact: \_\_\_\_\_

### *Moratorium on Illegal Sewer Hookups*

During the September 8th meeting of the Village Board, we passed a resolution concerning illegal storm sewer hookups. The resolution provides for a one year moratorium on the issuing of fines for illegal hookups. Residents will have one year to determine if they have an illegal hookup, and disconnect it. After one year, should a person be found to have an illegal hookup, the fine would be between \$500-\$1,000.

The Board felt this was necessary for several reasons. First, there already exists an ordinance making it illegal to maintain this type of hookup. It is also a violation of State statute to do so. On a practical level, having this type of hookup puts our Village employees at risk of contracting disease. It also stimulates root growth in the storm sewer system which blocks the tiles and slows the drainage of the town. This in turn floods your basements. The board has done great work in the past six years to enhance the drainage in town and disconnecting these illegal hookups will help to further that work. Finally, maintaining these illegal hookups dumps untreated waste into the Middle Fork River. It is important for every city along our waterways to practice good stewardship of our natural resources.

#### **LET'S LOOK AT WHAT CONSTITUTES AN ILLEGAL HOOKUP:**

Any connection to the Village storm sewer system that carries any toilet, sink, septic tank, cesspool, industrial waste, or any fixture or device discharging polluting substances, is prohibited. It is legal to hook a multi-flow system into the storm sewer. Sump pumps and roof drains are best discharged onto the surface instead of into storm drains.

To further explain this resolution and moratorium, let's look at some examples:

Our first example is a resident with an older home they have recently purchased. They are not sure what type of septic system they have or where it is discharged. They are not sure if their house is hooked illegally to the Village storm sewer system. The owners can flush dye into their system and check the sewer catch basins to see if the dye shows up. They can also consult a plumber to advise them as to the state of their system. If there is no hookup present, they need not be concerned with this resolution. If they have an illegal hookup, the moratorium gives them one year to make the necessary changes. The board realizes that it is difficult for families to make large expenditures of this type without a lot of planning and saving. This will also allow lower income individuals to

obtain grants or low interest loans to have this work done.

Our next example involves a homeowner who doesn't know what type of waste system he has and doesn't take advantage of the one year moratorium to make necessary changes. After the moratorium has expired, on September 8th, 1999, the home is discovered to have an illegal hookup. The homeowner is fined in accordance with the ordinance (not less than \$500 or more than \$1,000) and given 48 hours to present a plan to the Village for making the appropriate correction to the system. Realizing it takes time to set up a contractor and schedule work, the homeowner will be given an additional 60 days to make repairs. If they do not respond to the notice of illegal hookup within the 48 hours or have not made repairs within the 60 day period, their connection will be blocked off and they will be left without a waste system.

It is our desire to work with families to correct a long-standing problem within the Village. It is not our intention to make money from people through fines. It is, however, a situation that needs to be addressed. Copies of the resolution and ordinance will be available at the Village Hall and may be picked up any day during office hours. I believe this will make Homer a better place for everyone to live.

— Dave Lucas  
Mayor, Village of Homer

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# Tara Returns to Warm Homer Homecoming

*The Jenkins family appreciates ongoing community support*

Tara Jenkins never thought she would be so happy to see Homer as she was on Tuesday, July 14th. After spending over a month at Carle Hospital and two months and one week at Lifeline Children's Hospital in Indianapolis, she was coming home. Friends waited for her at the north entrance to the village and poster board signs and balloons hung on every utility pole between there and her home, thanks to Carol Wakefield, Jody Dickson and several helpers.

While at Lifeline, a rehabilitation facility for children, Tara did therapy five days a week for three hours per day and studied to make up the classes she had missed. One of her doctors there, Charles Dietzen, was featured in the book, *The Fifty Most Positive Doctors in America*.

A garage sale held in the spring at the Homer Church of Christ raised about \$800 for the Jenkins family. The weekend following Tara's homecoming, the village of Homer came together to host a benefit for Tara and her family, raising about \$13,000. Proceeds from both events are being held in a trust fund at the First National Bank of Homer and are available to the family as needed. Additional donations to the fund may be made in care of the bank. Because much of the expense for Tara's care and equipment is covered by insurance and state aid, a final accounting of expenses to date will not be known until all the insurance claims are processed and settled. Costing about \$16,500, Tara's wheelchair is paid for by insurance and state aid, is custom made to her measurements and needs, has a joy stick, and will totally recline. This will enable her to lie down without having to get out of the chair, as she still requires times of rest during the day. The back of the chair reclines in such a way that her back does not shift and no adjustments of clothing, etc., are needed for her comfort. Other equipment Tara requires are a hospital bed and a feeding pump so that at night she may receive the calories she is unable to get from her meals. Her daily requirement is 2,000. Tara requires six different medications per day, some prescription and some non-prescription, at an estimated monthly cost of \$200 to \$300.

Advances in technology allow Tara to use her computer by

means of voice activation. The software which runs the voice activation costs \$700. When it was first introduced, it cost about \$13,000. Tara will also have an environmental control unit which will allow her to run the television, VCR, lights, fan, phone and stereo in her bedroom. A contractor and volunteers remodeled and added onto the family's home to accommodate Tara's wheelchair and equipment.

Additional needs at this time include help doing the types of therapy that will not be provided for Tara at school. These are the stretching and strengthening exercises. An occasional carry in meal is always appreciated after a long day of seeing the doctors. A specially built wedge would help Tara to get her wheelchair into buildings which do not have a handicapped accessible entrance. Her electric chair, weighing over 300 pounds, is much too heavy to lift over the threshold of a building.

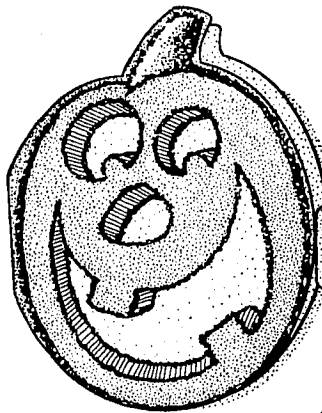
Tara looked forward to the start of school, just as she looks forward to any opportunity to get out. Her mother drives her, rather than relying on transportation provided by the school district, simply because it is easier. Tara attends class from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with an aide, Janet Richard, who assists her with her school work and physical needs. The school district has been very helpful in accommodating Tara, and has moved all her classes to the accessible first floor of the building. Occupational and physical therapy are part of her school day. While not painful, the therapy is difficult because it involves concentration to get the muscles which can move to do so. The focus will be on relearning activities and retraining upper body muscles to do things which will allow Tara more independence, such as feeding herself, brushing her hair, and other tasks which most of us take for granted. Tara hopes to work on the yearbook and join the chorus second semester.

At this time, she is not able to look ahead to make any plans for after graduation. For now, it is enough to deal with the challenge of daily life and finishing high school. However, Tara is a fighter and technological gains and accessibility laws will open up opportunities for her which were not available ten or even five years ago.



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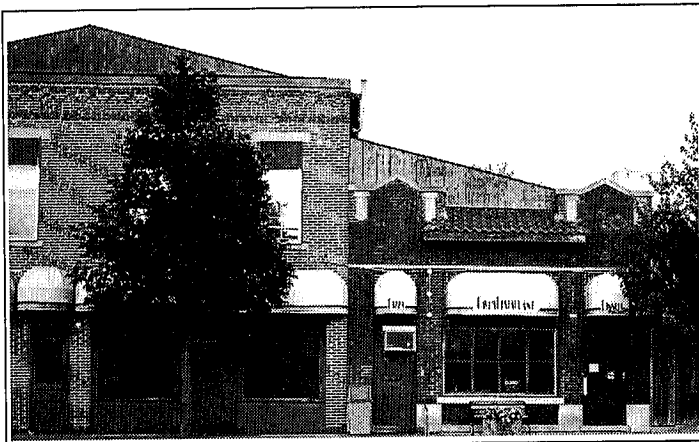
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## Business of the Month



## DAVE'S RESTAURANT

Dave's Restaurant, owned and operated by Homer native, Dave Reel, is located at 123 S. Main. For the past 14 months, Dave has been the owner and operator of the business, but he also worked almost five years for the previous owner. Dave's Restaurant offers a daily lunch special, which varies from day to day and week to week. The Friday special is fish. On Friday and Saturday evening, the specialty is Prime Rib. Hours for business are: Tuesday through Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Sunday, 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. For take-outs, you can call 896-2123. In Homer city limits, for a dollar more, you can have your order delivered. Outside of Homer city limits, it will cost you a dollar per mile.

## BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN HOMER

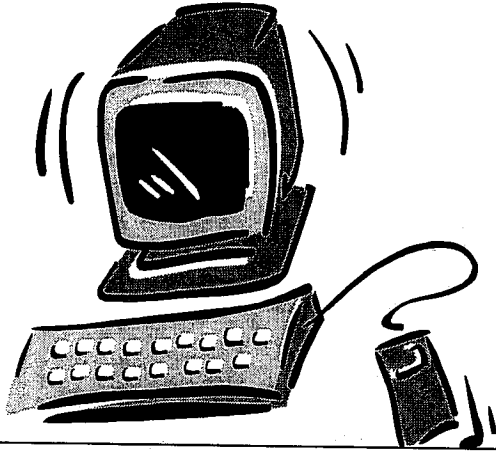
Farmer's Table Restaurant, \$75,000. Jim Clingan Auction & Realty, Inc. 469-2500.

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

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 Cato at the Homer IGA. (No charge for this service.)



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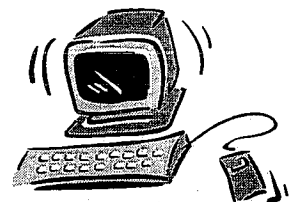
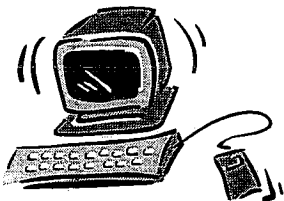
**PERSONAL TRAINING:** Do you need help learning Windows 95 or Windows 98? Want to learn how to learn more about Microsoft Word? Want to learn how to get e-mail and surf the net? We provide onsite training for \$30 an hour. Your computer needs to work for YOU and meet YOUR SPECIFIC NEEDS! Get the most out of your computer.

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## Homer Church News

### HOMER CHURCH OF CHRIST

God continues to move in an awesome way at the Homer Church of Christ. This summer we had a group of adults and high schoolers go to Mexico on a mission trip, a group of men went to Promise Keepers and a group of women attended the "Renewing Your Heart" conference in Nashville, TN.

Every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. we gather in God's presence and worship Him in spirit and truth. Our worship is led by a Praise Team singing contemporary songs of praise to God.

We have exciting Bible Studies every Sunday morning from 9:30 - 10:20. Topics include: Spiritual Warfare, Experiencing God and Becoming A Contagious Christian.

Also, we have a special study designed just for the one who wants to know more about the Homer Church of Christ. We call this the "Welcome Class". It also meets every Sunday at 9:30 a.m.

We have an extensive youth ministry which includes Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. for all ages, a Children's Church where the children have a special puppet ministry presentation while the parents have adult worship (10:30 a.m.), 7th and 8th grade Youth Groups which meet on Sunday nights at 6:00 p.m., Senior High Youth Groups meet also on Sunday at 6:30 p.m. and Planet Jesus Club is a weekly youth gathering (ages 4 through 5th grade) which meets on Wednesday nights at 6:45 p.m.

Are you growing in your relationship with Christ? Come join us at the Homer Church of Christ every Sunday! Call 896-2332 for more information.

### HOMER CHURCHES COOPERATING

On September 13th, the Homer Churches Cooperating (HCC) sponsored the Allen Family of East Lynn at our 3rd annual Singspiration at the Homer city park.

Elections are planned for the November meeting. Have you been noticing the various window displays at Wakefield Plumbing?

Is there interest for a community prayer time for our community, our school, our nation? If so, contact your church representative or call Jim Swathwood at 896-2861.

Don't forget our upcoming event — Community Thanksgiving service.

### HOMER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Jim Swathwood, CLP

On September 7th there was a church session. The 10th was the Champaign Mission Council. The 17th was the Southeastern Illinois Presbytery at Camp Carew. October 4th was World Communion Celebration. October 5th was church session. Adult class meets each Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Worship at 10:00 a.m. You are welcome!

## "Christmas at Home" Celebration

Plans are just about complete for another great start to the Christmas season on Saturday December 5th. The Homer community is coming together for the 2nd annual "Christmas at Home" celebration and housewalk. Seven beautiful homes will be opened to the community from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The celebration will also include "Christmas Tree Lane", a large display of Christmas trees, decorated by the merchants, various organizations and school children. This display will be in the City building along with "Cookieland", the annual cookie walk sponsored by the Heritage High School Booster club.

Other events are: Boy Scout Open House and Hospitality Center at the old Church of Christ building, coffee and donuts all day at the firehouse, where the firemen will be selling their fire truck banks, the arrival of Santa and Mrs. Santa and elves and a Toy Shoppe, featuring toy maker Ken Hunter, a live nativity and pie and pastry shoppe, carolers and strolling minstrels, crafters antique popcorn wagon and an angel tree. Renaissance studio will again be open and there will be a breakfast at the St. Borromeo Church and lunch at the new Church of Christ.

The Girl Scouts are offering baby-sitting at the City building so that all can enjoy the day. Tickets are available for the housewalk from Home Extension members and merchants at \$5.00 each. All events are from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Breakfast at 8:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Lunch at 11:00 a.m.

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# VARIOUS BOARDS IN HOMER

## HOMER VILLAGE BOARD MEMBERS

Meets the first and third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Public welcome to attend.

- Jim Little, 896-2843
- Jim Lacey, 896-2747
- Joe Humphrey, Trustee, 896-2597
- Orlena Pruitt, Trustee, 896-2748
- Mike Johnson, Trustee, 896-2228
- Mike Stayton, Trustee, 896-2181
- Dave Lucas, Mayor, 896-2618

## HOMER ZONING BOARD MEMBERS

Meets as needed at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Contact any of the board members listed below to find out when the next meeting is. Public welcome to attend.

- Barb Gilhaus, President, 896-2237
- Chuck Benner, Secretary, 896-2516
- Elizabeth Rexrode, 896-2687
- Ginny Dillon, 896-2719
- Don Glenn, Zoning Administrator, 896-2776
- Gene Happ, 896-2004
- Mike Flichinger, 896-2815

## HOMER RECREATION BOARD MEMBERS

Normally meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. This may be verified each month by contacting any of the board members listed below. Public welcome to attend.

- Betty Lacey, President, 896-2365
- Meredith Emert, Secretary, 896-2258
- Ila Patel, Treasurer, 896-2767
- Kate Vetter, 896-2224
- Lynne Krause, 896-2336
- Tim Kirby, 896-23239
- Jeff Steneman, 896-2486
- Linda Driscoll, 896-2771
- Josh Lucas, 896-2618
- Tiffany Matthis, 896-2689

## HOMER YOUTH LEAGUE BOARD MEMBERS

- Mike Johnson, President, 896-2228
- Stacy Johnson, Secretary, 896-2228
- Tom Wakefield, Vice President, 896-2347
- Lisa Wakefield, Treasurer, 896-2347
- Ricki Latham, Director of Concessions, 896-2088
- Kevin Latham, Director of Equipment, 896-2088
- Kim Little, Co/Director of Fundraising, 896-2849
- Cindy Pruitt, Director of Public Relations, 896-2114
- Jamie Bryan, Director at Large, 896-2388
- Jim Swathwood, Director at Large, 896-2861
- Dale Katterhenry, Director at Large, 896-2647

## HOMER CHURCHES COOPERATING BOARD MEMBERS

- Jim Swathwood, President, 896-2861
- Rev. J. L. Penfold, Vice President 896-2551
- Betty Taylor, Treasurer, 896-2844
- Jackie Sturdyvin, Secretary, 896-2225

## HOMER LIBRARY BOARD MEMBERS

Meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Public welcome to attend.

- Sara Essig, President, 896-2772
- Linda Pruitt, Secretary, 896-2742
- Marilyn Collins, Treasurer, 896-2282
- Leanne Lucas, 896-2618
- Gertrude Brown, 896-2049
- Jeanine Bensken, Vice President, 896-2693
- Cindy James, 896-3014

## HOMER HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD MEMBERS

Meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Historical Society on Main Street. Public welcome to attend.

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

## HOMER HOME EXTENSION BOARD MEMBERS

Meets the third Friday of each month at 12:30 in members homes. There is no meeting time in August. Public welcome to attend.

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

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEMBERS

Meets the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Public welcome to attend.

- Stan Cato, President, 688-2791
- Tim Kirby, Vice President, 896-2323
- Kim Matthis, Secretary, Treasurer, 896-2689
- Jim Little, Liason, 896-2843
- Spencer Eli, 896-2099
- Pat Varvel, 896-2392
- Norma Diel, 896-2737
- Troy Preston, 896-2128
- Don Glenn, 896-2776
- Dave Lucas, Advisor, 896-2618
- Kelly Vetter, 896-2224

## HERITAGE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Meets the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Homer school. Public welcome to attend.

- Jim Fish, President, 896-2756
- Jim Downs, Vice President, 834-3109
- Kevin Wright, 896-2865
- Charles Berry, 834-3361
- Dave Bosch, 834-3443
- Bruce Block, 834-3090
- John Lannon, 684-2728

To list your nonprofit organization board members, contact Kim Matthis at 896-2689 or Stan Cato at the Homer IGA.

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## Homer Homemakers Extension News

Homer Homemakers Extension members began a new calendar year on September 18th, meeting at Homer Lake to plan for the program year. New lessons being presented during 1998-99, are "Who gets Grandma's Yellow Pie Plate", (estate planning), "Adults and Children Grieve", "Character Counts!", "New Look at Diabetes Diet", "Cashless Society", "Changing Role of Women", "Are You Listening?", and "Ornamental Grasses".

The Unit does not normally meet in August, but on August 20th, the group enjoyed a Garden Walk, in and around Homer, visiting the gardens of Becky Smith, Carmen Strawser, Shirley Miller, and Bruce Wicks. Members then met at Pat Varvel's home for a luncheon and short meeting.

At various times during July and August, members met to plan for the 2nd Annual "Christmas at Home" celebration and housewalk. Seven homes will be featured on Saturday, December 5th. They are the homes of Paul and Bonnie Compton, Dennis and Sherry Demoss, Don and Debbie Happ, George and Donna Heppe, Troy and Lori Phillips, Troy and Mary Preston and Fred and Becky Smith. A "Mystery House" may be added to the list closer to the time. The generosity of these homeowners is most appreciated, and we are looking forward to presenting another beautiful housewalk to the community.

Homemakers will meet October 16th for a lesson on "Adults and Children Grieve" given by Virginia Baird.

## Homer Library News

Do you enjoy reading magazines, but hate to throw them out after reading them? Do you hate to let them pile up at home? Let us solve your problem. Borrow them from the library. We have many popular magazines and current issues may be checked out.

In addition to movies on video, we also have many educational videos on such topics as health and illness, driver safety, child rearing, history, tornadoes, exercise programs and golf. Many old television shows, like the Andy Griffith Show, can be found in our collection. There is no charge for checking out videos.

Many people enjoy listening to books on tape while they are driving or doing simple activities. We have a small collection of current fiction and non-fiction audio books. Others which we don't have can often be borrowed from other libraries.

We will be open on Columbus Day, October 12th and Veteran's Day, November 11th.

# Homer Household

BY PAT VARVEL

## Sweet Cinnamon Quick Bread

2 C. Flour  
1 C. Sugar  
4 t. Baking Powder  
1 1/2 t. Cinnamon  
1 1/4 t. Salt  
1 C. Buttermilk  
1/3 C. Oil  
2 t. Vanilla  
2 eggs

Combine all ingredients. Beat 3 minutes in mixer on medium speed. Pour half of batter into a loaf pan (greased on bottom only). Combine 2 T. sugar, 1 t. cinnamon, 2 t. soft butter. Sprinkle batter with half of cinnamon mixture. Can add 1/2 C chopped nuts. Pour in rest of batter. Sprinkle with rest of cinnamon mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 - 55 minutes. Test with toothpick for doneness. Can glaze with powdered sugar and milk icing.

## Chicken & Dressing Casserole

Cook and bone a fryer chicken. Cut chicken into bite-size pieces. Combine 1 can each, cream of mushroom soup, cream of chicken soup, and 1-13 oz can evaporated milk. Heat thoroughly. Mix 1-8 oz package of Stove Top chicken flavor stuffing and 1/2 c melted butter together. Spread half of dressing in bottom of a 9 X 13 pan. Place chicken over dressing. Pour soup mixture over this. Top with rest of dressing. Bake 350 35 - 40 minutes.

## Ann's Pumpkin Squares

Mix 4 eggs, 1 C. oil, 2 C. sugar in large bowl. Add 1-15 oz can pumpkin. Mix well. Combine 2 C flour, 1 t soda, 2 t. cinnamon, 1/2 t. nutmeg, 2 t. baking powder, 1/2 t. salt, 1/2 t. ginger. Add to pumpkin mix and mix well. Pour into greased and floured jelly roll pan. Bake 350 for 25-30 minutes. Frost with 6 oz cream cheese, 1 T. milk, 4 C powdered sugar, 3/4 c. stick butter, 1 t. vanilla, beaten together until smooth.

*True friendship is like sound health; the value of it is seldom known until it be lost.*

— Charles Caleb Colton (1780-1832)

## A Possible Farmer's Market in Homer's Future?

Do you have garden overflow you'd like to sell? Do you have home baked goods to sell? How about hand craft items? Local farmers, are you looking for a place to sell your goods? The Community Development Board is trying to check interest in having a market on Saturday mornings during summer months in Homer. If you are interested please call the Village message center at 896-2559. Leave your name and phone number and we will call you back.

—Thank you from the CDB, trying to serve your needs.

# 10

## Commandments of Worship

submitted by JIM SWATHWOOD

- 1 Thou shalt not come to service late,  
Nor for the amen refuse to wait.
- 2 When speaks the organ's sweet refrain,  
The noisy tongue thou shalt restrain.
- 3 But when the hymns are sounded out,  
Thou shalt lift thy voice and shout.
- 4 And when the anthem thou shalt hear,  
Thy sticky voice thou shalt not clear.
- 5 The end most seat thou shalt leave free,  
For more must share the pew with thee.
- 6 The offering plate thou shalt not fear,  
But give thine uttermost with cheer.
- 7 Thou shalt the minister give heed,  
Nor blame him when thou are disagreed.
- 8 Unto thy neighbor, thou shalt bend,  
And, if a stranger, make a friend.
- 9 Thou shalt in every way be compassionate, kind,  
Considerate, and of tender mind.
- 10 And so, by all thy spirit's grace,  
Thou shalt show God within this place.

# When I Was Young

BY BETTY LACEY

There are times that my mind wanders while doing things that I used to do. But doing them now seems so much different. How we ever survived I'm beginning to wonder.

While canning beans I remembered that there was not a pressure cooker in the house where we lived or at my grandparent's in Homer. Yet the bountiful harvest from gardens was preserved to get us through the winter. There were no home freezers. The markets did not have fresh produce available in the stores and there was no money to buy it anyway. Fruits, tomatoes, and vegetables were canned by the open kettle method. The jars were washed and kept in boiling water until the fruit was cooked and kept boiling hot. The lids were one piece zinc with a glass liner and used with a rubber ring that sealed against a flange on the jar. This meant that the glass liner rested on top of the glass jar and the rubber jar ring made the seal. Why didn't the zinc bother us? Even after a glass insert in a two piece lid came into use, a rubber ring made the seal but then on top of the jar. Again, everything was kept boiling and put together in a sterile condition. The words hot water bath and pressure canner were not familiar.

I remember the first pressure cooker I ever saw. It was a monster. The lid was held on by hinged bolts with big knobs on them. The filled jars were filled to the top with boiling water, the lids screwed tight and lowered into boiling water in the bottom of the pot. There was a gauge on the top to measure pressure. It was put on top of the cook stove and it took constant attention to keep the fire hot enough to bring the pressure up. Of course it was done on the hottest days of summer and fall and was a whole day's job.

There are memories of special canned foods. Aunt Alice canned watermelon rind preserves and a vegetable soup mix. The soup mix had all the vegetables that were left in the garden. Cabbage, carrots, green beans, lima beans, tomatoes and onions. It was ambrosia and could be eaten right out of the jar or put into beef broth for a meal fit for kings. My grandmother canned corn and added a little sugar to make it melt in your mouth.

I think people who had their own beef canned that too or they could take it to a commercial cannery. The only meat we ever had fresh was when Grandpa butchered a hog. Hams were sugar cured, or smoked. Bacon hung in the smoke house and sausage was cooked in patties and put into a stone jar. The meat was covered with the grease from frying. For a meal you dug down in the grease and retrieved the amount needed. A special treat was fresh side meat. Once I saw someone stew a whole hog's head. Then the meat was picked off and used with corn meal to make scrapple or to make head cheese. Back bones were cooked this way too.

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With the advent of the two piece lid (a flat and a ring), the constant warning of botulism, and produce with less acid, the whole process has changed. Care must still be taken to clean and sterilize all the equipment but in pressure canning the jars are packed cold. Tomatoes can still be done in an open kettle but must have a hot water bath to secure the lids. If the tomatoes are not acid enough a little vinegar or lemon juice can be added. It is really nice to be able to open a quart of green beans or tomatoes whenever the need arises. When I think of my childhood, there was never a time when there was not plenty to eat for everyone who sat at our table.

If we had had refrigeration and all the kinds of produce that is available today, we would not have known the joy of opening a home canned jar of peaches or tomatoes when it was cold and snowy out or being able to stretch a simple meal into a feast.

The freezer has become the easiest way to preserve things but food just does not have the flavor it used to have.

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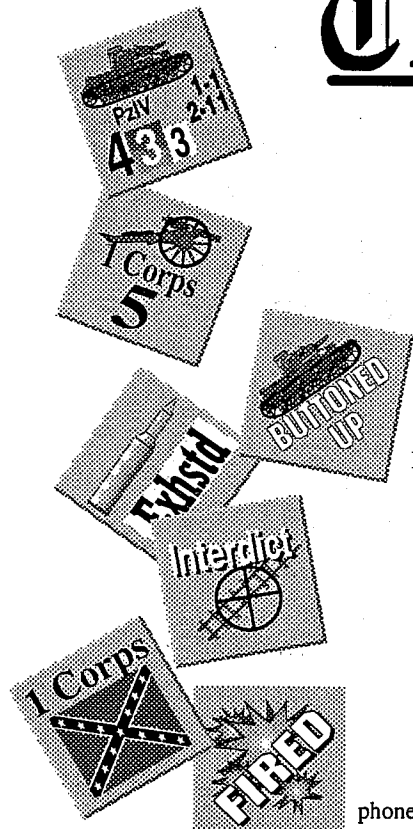
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