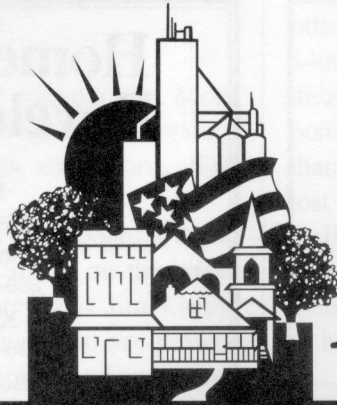


HOMER



News & Views

A PUBLICATION OF THE HOMER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Homer Village Board

by CHRIS REEL

The responsibility for the future of Homer rests with the six members of the village board, along with the mayor. Yet, each resident also has a part to play, as several board members have pointed out. They have expressed their desire that residents let board members know of their concerns, that people attend board meetings and get involved in community affairs.

In this issue of *Homer News and Views* we will become better acquainted with three of our board members. The next issue will cover the other three.

The longest serving member of the board, **Joe Humphrey** is in his seventh year, and second term of office. He serves on the Streets and Alleys, Building and Grounds and Park Committees along with Laurie Umbarger and Jim Lacey, and can conduct a meeting in the absence of the mayor. His goals as board member have been to bring additional water to Homer, and to upgrade the park facilities. The water project is almost complete; the park has a new roof on the old pavilion, a new pavilion and two waterless outhouses.

Joe brings a wealth of practical experience to his role as a board member, which serves him well on his committee work. He worked for thirty years on the Wabash Railroad,



Homer Village Officials are (front l-r) Cynthia Pruitt, Village Treasurer; Mike Johnson, Board Member; Orlena Pruitt, Board Member; (Back l-r) JoAnn Wallace, Village Clerk; Joe Humphrey, Board Member; Jim Lacey, Board Member; Lauri Umbarger, Board Member; David Lucas, Mayor. Board Member David Burns was unavailable for the photo.

now the Norfolk Southern. He has done a wide variety of construction work, including concrete, drainage, buildings, gravel and water mains.

Homer's greatest challenge, in his view, concerns the septic/sewer situation and the EPA's role in it. Joe would like to see more residents get involved in community events that

Continued on page 3

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Stan Cato, President

688-2791, term expires 12/31/01

Tim Kirby, Vice President

896-2323, term expires 12/31/99

Kim Matthis, Treasurer

896-2689, term expires 12/31/01

Bobbi Gordon, Secretary

896-2585, term expires 3/31/01

Dave Lucas, Advisor

896-2618, term expires 4/31/01

Spencer Ely

896-2099, term expires 12/31/01

Pat Varvel

896-2392, term expires 5/31/00

Tom Cottrell

term expires 11/1/01

Don Glenn

896-2776, term expires 5/31/00

Dave Reel

term expires 11/1/01

Greg Knott

896-2348, term expires 6/30/02

HOMER



News & Views

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

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

WIENKE'S SHOE REPAIR

122 S. Main Street

Homer, Illinois

896-2514

Your Red Wing agent

Village Board (continued from page 1)

would bring people to Homer from other communities. More activity in Homer means more people in town spending money, which will benefit our businesses, and in turn, all of us. Joe's phone number is 896-2597.

Lauri Umbarger was elected to the village board in April of this year, along with David Burns. She is on the infrastructure committees with Joe Humphrey and Jim Lacey. Lauri ran for the position because she wants to see growth happen in Homer, bringing in new businesses and new families. As a mother of two young children, she is concerned that Homer remain a good place for them to grow up. Homer is a small town with a lot of potential which Lauri would like to see realized. Specific goals include a face lift for the downtown and a sewer system.

Prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom four years ago, Lauri worked in banking, and operated a clothing store for a time. She describes herself as a people person, and wants input from residents. As a younger adult, she is willing to listen to new ideas, and to consider change.

A new board member, Lauri has not seen any major projects through from start to finish yet, but like other board members, she is pleased with the progress of the water project, and the initiation of the TIF project.

Lauri Umbarger encourages people to get involved, to care enough about Homer to make a difference, and to let their voices be heard, rather than just complaining about what they don't like in Homer. Her phone number is 896-2067.

Jim Lacey was appointed to the board to take the place of Kevin Thomas, and was elected this past April to complete the term. Altogether, he has served about three years. He serves on the infrastructure committees.

One of Jim's concerns is to improve communication between the board members and the residents. He sees his role on the board as that of watching out for the little guy, and he wants to hear from residents.

He sees Homer's biggest challenges in drawing people to the business community, and in encouraging involvement in village affairs. Apathy will cause Homer to decline. Some specific goals are to see the renovation of the city building, and with it, the expansion of the library.

In his role as board member, Jim brings the values instilled in him by his parents, such as fairness, and a desire to learn all the facts before coming to a judgment. He has served on a problem solving committee at his workplace, and received training to help in that capacity. He has learned how to deal with people. He desires that things be done right. Also, Jim has experience in construction.

Homer's nearly completed water project is a big accomplishment in Jim's view. The cost of bringing water from west of Ogden was less than it would have been to hook on to Sidney's. People have complained about the rate hike, but by increasing water rates, the village brought them in line with

other communities. This then enabled Homer to apply for a \$400,000 grant for the water project. Other communities who didn't bring their rates in line were unable to get a grant. Jim pointed out that water sales fund more of the village's budget than do taxes. If Homer had gone with Sidney, it would have lost that income, and lost control over the rates.

Jim strongly encourages people to get involved and to vote in elections. Attend board meetings, and speak out. Board members will listen. His phone number is 896-2747.

Next issue, we will profile board members Mike Johnson,

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN HOMER

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

Homer Car Wash — 110 N. Main St., \$20,000. 896-2714

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.)

Homer Library News

Our Summer Reading Program, under the capable direction of Sheri Burns, wrapped up on August 17th with a pizza party. Soon, it will be time for the first *Reading is Fundamental* distribution, when we give a free book to each child in kindergarten through fourth grades in the Homer Grade School. This program is repeated twice more during the school year.

Sheri Burns has accepted the directorship of the Homer Pre-school. However, she will continue to direct the children's programs at the library. Pat Varvel will be working some hours in the library on a regular basis.

Chris' Quick Pick: *The Meeting Place* by Janette Oke and T. Davis Bunn. Dealing with a period of Nova Scotia (Acadia) history that may not be well-known to Americans, but which nonetheless is quite interesting, this book tells of the effects of the conflict between the British and the French, especially the unexpected impact on the lives of two young couples, one British and one French.

Many popular authors have new books coming out this fall. Some have arrived already; others are on order. Check out our shelves to see what's in.

Homer's Christmas Walk

by Naomi Roberts

When a small town works together with cooperation to complete a huge project such as the Homer Christmas Walk, it is truly a large town success. For the past two years, the Homer Homemakers Extension Unit has sponsored the Christmas walk, but this year they feel they just can't do it. It is a large project, but the rewards are unending.

This year we are fortunate to have the Playground Committee sponsoring this event. In previous years, several businesses used this day to say thank-you to their customers, and some groups such as the Boy Scouts and local crafters and churches also joined in to use it as a fundraising event. Santa was there. In the tree display, several businesses decorated trees with some of the things they sell. One church offered breakfast, another served dinner, and still another had a pie and pastry shop. A live Nativity scene was on display and, of course, many homes were open to the public.

All of these things didn't happen by themselves. They came about with much planning and effort by a lot of people, so it seems a shame to let this event just fade away.

If you have ideas or can help in any way, give Bobbi Gordon a call at 896-2585. If you would like to enter your home in the house walk, please contact Pat Varvel at 896-2392.

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Howling for Gifts?

Halloween is here at Hallmark! Come by to pick up gifts for all your favorite "ghouls" and boys. We have black cats, ghosts and pumpkins with the most. Treat everyone on your list with gifts from Hallmark.



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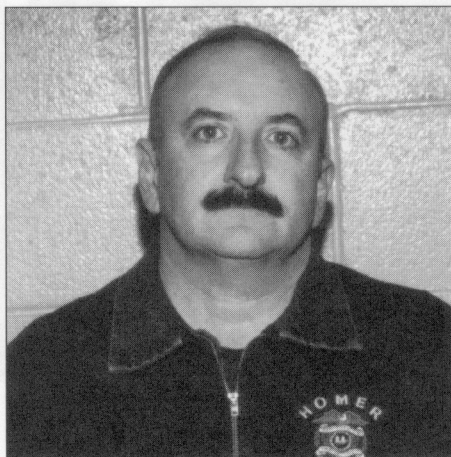
Saluting Homer's Volunteer Firefighters

— An Ongoing Series



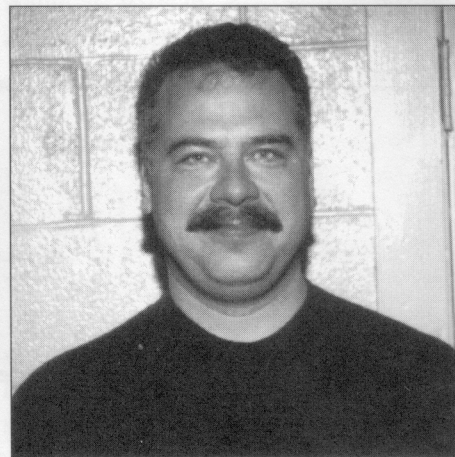
BRUCE BARNES

Bruce has lived in Homer for the last four years and is employed at the Beckman Institute at the University of Illinois. He and his wife Trina have two children, both in Heritage schools. Heather is in Junior High and Matthew is in Grade School. Bruce has been a volunteer fireman for three years with a rank of EMT and Firefighter. Special training includes EMT B. He says he has wanted to be a fireman since he was in junior high. His very special interests are his children and watching them play sports. He likes the small town atmosphere in Homer where neighbors watch out for each other and each other's children.



DON PATTERSON

Don lives just a half mile west of Homer. He has worked in the area for over twenty-two years and is employed by GTE North of Illinois. Don has two boys, Shannon and Jason. Shannon is married to the former Katie Davison and they had Don's first grandchild this past May. Shannon and Jason both live in rural Homer. Don has been a volunteer fireman for ten years and has the rank of firefighter II and EMT. Special training includes firefighter II, and EMT B&D. Don is a collector with special interest in telephone and fire items. He enjoys the small town of Homer, its businesses and its friendly people.





MIKE JOHNSON

Mike has lived in the village of Homer for over four years. He is self-employed at Eagle Amusements. Mike and his wife, Stacy, have three children in Heritage schools. Michael is a sophomore at the high school, Joshua is in the seventh grade at the jr. high, and Kayleigh is in the fourth grade. Mike has been a volunteer fireman for four years and has special training in EMT B&D and storm spotter. He is a fireman to serve the village of Homer by helping others in need. His special interests include his kids (and other kids), youth sports, the fire department, fishing, and helping nonprofit organizations.

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FOCUSING ON HOMER'S BUSINESSES

— BY NAOMI ROBERTS

RENAISSANCE STUDIOS

In 1933 Alfred North Whitehead wrote, "The human body is an instrument for the production of art in the life of the human soul." Mr. Whitehead's words were true, because if we do not produce art, we lack creativity. Without creativity, we lack joy and satisfaction. We lack the joy of having the ability to take nothing and turn it into something beautiful and functional, and the satisfaction that comes with the completion of the work.

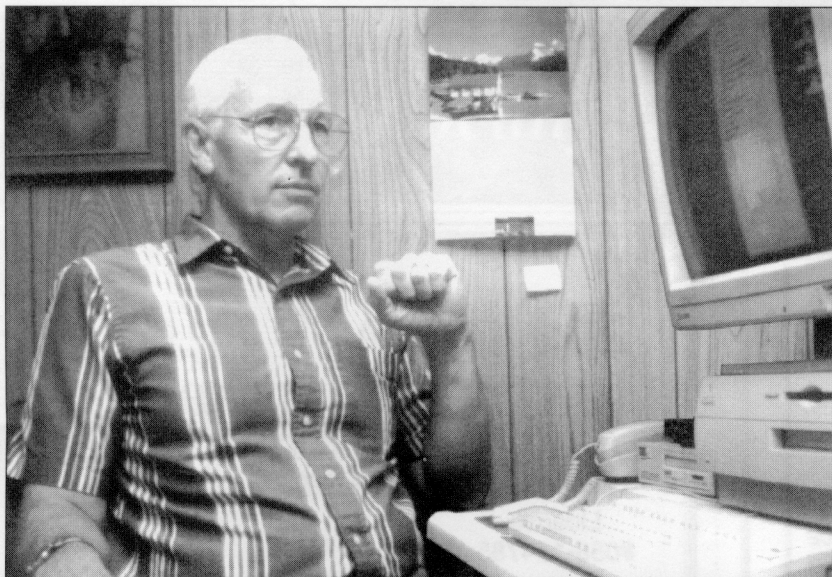
Renaissance Studios, owned and operated by Casey and Sue Jones, has no problem taking nothing and turning it into something beautiful and serviceable. Renaissance Studios is actually two businesses in one. Casey, the graphic designer, has been self-employed for twenty years. His business used to be known as Pro Art. For several years he designed advertising materials for IPAT (Institute for Personality and Ability Testing) and for Metritech.

Years ago, when Casey began in the business of graphic

designs, he was a board artist. He used an Xacto knife and did paste-ups. Over the years, his business has changed so drastically his tools are more sophisticated and his end product has infinite possibilities. Dull, straight, black and white lines are a thing of the past. Now, Casey works with computers, laser and ink jet, color printers, and a flat bed scanner. The color printer allows him to use a four color process which affords him greater freedom in the business cards, pamphlets, or brochures he creates. From these new tools of the trade, along with Casey's artistic talent, 3-D pictures in multi-colors grab the

"Without art, the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable."

—GEORGE BERNARD SHAW



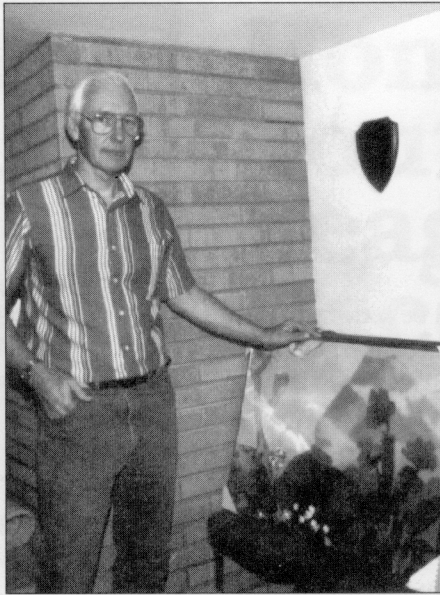
K.C. spends a contemplative moment at his computer

eyes of anyone who reads the various materials Casey designs. He also does calendars (Lions), newsletters (past *Homer News and Views*), T-shirts, Logos, Trademarks and Christmas cards. Casey also creates what he calls "Dreamscapes." The old adage, "One man's junk is another man's treasure," definitely applies in Casey's "Dreamscapes." His dreamscapes are pictures that are produced from colored cellophane, glass shards, strips of colored paper, and anything else that Casey views as beautiful and has potential.

Once he scans these fragments of different things into the computer, he manipulates them until they look like pictures of landscapes. Some are so realistic, you think you are looking at a horticulturist's award winning dream garden, or the painted desert. Some of Casey's dreamscapes have been printed on canvas, which gives them the appearance of real oil paintings.



Sue in her jewelry design studio.



K.C. shows off his "Dreamscapes."

Casey's artwork and designs also assists Sue in her part of the business. Sue creates jewelry. Her studio is a child's dream playground. Plastic boxes full of glass and stone beads, crystal, buckles, buttons, and pearls fill the desk top and shelves. They are sorted by color and design. From these pieces, Sue creates broaches, stick pins, necklaces and earrings. Her jewelry creations are like a dress designed by a famous couturier in Hollywood; one of a kind. Sue also creates personalized orders, or you can buy from her display, which she shows throughout the year at various places, such as: Kris Kringle, Art in the Park, and A Taste of Champaign. She also does shows at local events and churches. Sue has branched out in a different area of jewelry too; doll jewelry.

This is an area where Casey's graphic designs join Sue's jewelry creations. To display the doll jewelry Sue makes, Casey designed a stand-up card with a picture of a doll on the front. There are holes punched at the ears and neck of the doll, so the earrings and necklace can be attached. In this way, the doll looks as if it were wearing the jewelry.

Like Casey, Sue gathers several things together, such as a button, a bead, a medallion, then reassembles them to make an exquisite, antique pin. Sue's tools are not as sophisticated as Casey's, but she does have her own set of tools. She uses grinders, both for metal and glass, a Dremel tool, and she even has her own anvil. Though the anvil's size is miniature compared to an old blacksmith's anvil, it is still an anvil, which Sue uses to beat and shape metals. She also does soldering, and works with stained glass and she even fuses glass.

Each year, Sue and Casey travel to several states across the US to buy beads, glass, and other materials needed for her jewelry line. She also frequents bead shops, antique shops, and garage sales, looking for the unique and different, sometimes buying one earring. The other one having been lost long ago.

Growing up in an antique shop has given Sue the ability to see more in a piece of jewelry than just an object. Sue's jew-

elry is not just unique, it is part of the past; a little old with the new to create a one of a kind design. Dreams and fantasies come alive with just the right selection of jewelry. Her selections include Victorian, Collage, Art Noveau, Nautical, African, Art Deco, Egyptian, and loyalty jewelry.

Her loyalty jewelry is a collection of University of Illinois pins for sports moms, and all sports enthusiasts. The Illini line, of course, is not a one of a kind creation. Sue turns out many U. of I. pieces and sells them on campus during the Mom's Day events.

In December, Sue has her own event. She and Casey have an open house for the public. This year's event is scheduled for December 4th and 5th.

Saturday, they will be open all day, but Sunday, they won't open until after church.

If you are in need of Casey's graphic design for brochures, note cards, calendars, or maybe you would like to send your own Christmas cards, stop by 502 W. Fourth St. or call 896-2763. And don't forget Sue's line of jewelry for women, sports fans, and doll collectors. Be creative and give a gift that is not only unique, but brings joy and satisfaction to the soul.

Presented by Homer Recreation Board
& Jim Alred:

Family Photo Days

all proceeds to benefit Homer Park & Playground Equipment Committee

Homer Lake Rec Center
Sunday, October 3
11am - 5pm

Homer Village Hall
Sunday, October 10
11am - 5pm

Family, Couple or Individual Photo Prices
1st 2 poses \$8.00 > receive 2 5x7 prints
2 additional poses \$8.00 > receive 2 add'l 5x7 prints

Mix & Match Packages (must order 2)
\$6.00 1 - 8x10 \$6.00 4 - 4x5
\$6.00 2 - 5x7 \$4.00 8 - wallets

Holiday greeting cards with photo available

25 cards \$21.00 75 cards \$58.00
50 cards \$40.00 100 cards \$75.00

>>>> Please call 896-2585 for an appointment <<<<

Homer Lake Rec Center donation arranged
by Brian Taylor

License Plates Anyone?

One of the playground fund-raisers will be selling license plates (similar to the C-U Duck Race license plates available each year). The theme will be **July 4th at Homer Park**. 50 is the minimum amount that can be ordered. Greg Knott is working with Sally Barkey, the art teacher at Heritage school. Sally is excited about this project and will be assigning it as homework for several grades to come up with a design. One student who wins the contest will have their design on the license plates. Another student that wins will have their design on the promotional material that the Rec board uses to promote next July 4th at Homer park. All participants will receive a certificate. 2nd and 3rd prizes will also be awarded. The judging will be done by Sally Barkey, Greg Knott and other school representatives. The license plates can go on sale and begin being sold on May 4th. They are good for 60 days. A person who buys a set, would remove their current license plates and install the Homer July 4th license plates on their vehicle for 60 days or until July 5th. On July 5th the Homer July 4th license plates would be removed and the old license plates installed again. We hope to sell them for \$25 per set. All profit from this fund-raiser will go to the park playground equipment. Think of the promotional value of having cars drive all over the county with the Homer name on it. Stan Cato of the Homer IGA has given permission to sell the plates at the IGA office. Would you buy a set for \$25? We would really like to get an idea of the interest in this before doing the fund-raiser. Please complete the following by October 20th and drop off at the *News & Views* drop off box at the Homer IGA or mail to:

Homer Community Development Board
P.O. Box 74 Homer, IL 61849.

Would you purchase Homer July 4th license plates?

YES NO

Would you be willing to pay \$25 per set?

YES NO

Other comments or suggestions:

RAY'S



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Financial Help Available for Waste Treatment Systems

With the expiration of the moratorium on enforcing illegal storm sewer hookups, it is critical that residents make sure they have a proper waste treatment system. The Village will begin a systematic, city wide check of all homes to determine if they are hooked up illegally. For those who have a direct storm sewer hookup and have need of a new septic system but don't have the resources to pay for one, the Village has made arrangements with the Department of Agriculture Rural Development as a source of financial aid. The agency has home repair loans and grants available to low income residents and senior citizens. The grants are a maximum of \$7,500 and loans are up to \$20,000 with 1% interest. If you have an adjusted gross family income that falls at or below the established threshold, you may be eligible for one of these grants or loans.

For information, call the Village office and leave your name and phone number with the Village Clerk. A local representative will contact you and help you with the application process.

HOMER



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- Fresh Donuts — Baked Daily
 - Video Rental
 - Film Processing
 - Rug Shampoo Rental
- Friendly Hometown Service

WE'RE IN YOUR HOMETOWN!

Homer Youth League Receives \$3,000.00 Donation

The Homer Youth League was the recipient of a \$3,000.00 check presented by the Village Board of Homer. These monies came from a special fund set up to administer a \$30,000 donation made by an anonymous Homer resident. This is the first presentation from this fund.

The Youth League plans to use the donation to make improvements on the concession stand at the baseball field. The donation will be used to purchase new concession equipment for the stand and to bring the interior up to current health department code. The planned changes will include installing stainless steel panels on the wall and new tile flooring to enhance cleanability. New stainless steel tables and sinks will also be added.

According to Mike Johnson, concession sales are the primary fund raiser for the Youth League. Since the present board has taken over the league, profits from the stand average \$4,250.00 per year, up from \$800.00. This year the stand will make around \$4,700.00. The increase is due to an expanded menu and excellent volunteer service from the Youth League board.

Future plans for field improvements include lights and a new scoreboard for the small ball field.

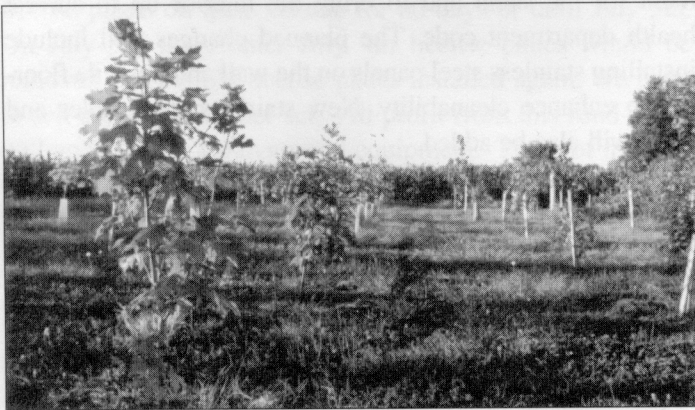


Present for the Youth League check presentation are (l-r): Jim Swathwood, Mike Johnson, Stacy Johnson, Ricki Latham, Tom Wakefield, Mayor Lucas, Cindy Pruitt, Lisa Wakefield.

Homer's New Tree Nursery

In its continuing effort to bring more and better services to the people of Homer, while being good stewards of everyone's tax money, the Village Board has started a tree nursery on property it owns west of the water treatment plant. This spring, 40 trees of 10 different species were planted to provide future street trees. The seedlings came in three gallon pots and were planted in such a way as to be removed and transplanted in four to five years. The seedlings cost \$8.00 per tree and when grown will yield a tree worth over \$50.00. During the growth phase in the nursery, the trees will be pruned and staked to keep them straight. If this process is continued every year for the next five years, the village will have a continuous source of high quality street trees to help enhance the beauty of the Village.

A special thanks goes out to Jim Lacey for digging the holes for the trees, to Bruce Wicks for his help in planting the trees (as well as his continued interest in the village's trees), and Bub Miller and Gary Smith for mulching and watering the trees all summer.



MARQUEE SIGN KEEPERS

If you have a message to post on the Homer Lions Club Marquee for events, please telephone the Lions Members listed below with the information. If the listed persons responsible for posting and removal of messages during the month shown are unavailable, please contact K.C. Jones, sign chairman, at 896-2763.

Sign keepers for October 1999 are

D. Clem - 896-2344

D. Freeman - 896-2833

Sign keepers for November 1999 are

T. Kirby - 896-2323

D. Morgan - 896-2197

Homer Household

Submitted by PAT VARVEL

APPLE BUTTER BREAD

2 C flour
1 t. baking powder
1/2 t. salt
1 t. soda
1 t. cinnamon
3/4 C sugar
1 t. vanilla
2 eggs
1 c. apple butter
1/ c chopped nuts
1 stick oleo, room temp

Cream sugar and oleo together. Add eggs and vanilla. Sift dry ingredients together. Add to wet ingredients. Mix well. Add apple butter and nuts just till blended. Pour into greased loaf pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 55-60 min. Best next day.

CROCK-POT BARBECUED BEEF

3# arm roast, cut in cubes
1 onion, chopped
2 stalks celery, chop
garlic powder to taste
1 t. salt
1-14 oz bottle catsup (Heinz best)
2 T. brown sugar
2 T. vinegar
1 t. dry mustard
1 t. sugar
1 T. chili powder
1 T. paprika
2 T. Worcestershire sauce

Place all ingredients in crock-pot. Stir to blend, then cook on low, 8-10 hours. Mash meat with potato masher to shred. Serve on buns.

MAPELY NUT BARS

Cut together until crumbly, 1 1/4 c flour, 1/4 c sugar, 1 stick oleo. Press mixture into greased 9x9 pan. Bake at 375 degrees for 15 min.

Combine 1 egg 1/2 c brown sugar, 1/3 c Log Cabin syrup, 2 T. oleo, melted, 1 t. vanilla and 1 1/2 c chopped nuts. Pour over baked crust. Bake 20 min at 375 degrees. Cut into bars.