



Otter Creek Historical Society



DURAND VILLAGE HALL

June 2011

To explore the history of the Durand School District #322, also known as Otter Creek area and preserve information, oral and written, pertinent to its heritage. To display articles of historical and genealogical interest. To establish a museum.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Finally, summer has come. Today temperatures reached into the 90's. A little too warm for my blood, but better than those cold windy days we had this past spring. Oh, did I mention what else happens? You guessed it, my favorite sport, BASEBALL. Time to play catch with the grandkids and umpire a few games. Everyone knows my favorite Team is the St. Louis Cardinals. I grew up in an area of dominate Cub fans, but they just didn't get to me the way the Cards did. The Cards had such great names like Vinegar Bend Mizel, Dizzy Dean, Stan the man, and Smokin Joe Cunningham. Besides, I noticed how frustrated Cub fans always seemed to be. How did this great game get started? It evolved from the English games of cricket and rounders. A batsman tries to reach base by hitting the ball or baseball. This game was extremely popular. The first recorded game was in 1847 between the Knickerbockers Baseball Club of New York and the New York Baseball Club at Elyson Field in Hoboken, New Jersey. By the way, the Knickerbockers lost. In 1857 Alexander Cartwright called a convention to establish rules and regulation for this game. Twenty five teams from the northeast sent delegates. One of the primary changes was that you could no longer put a runner out by plugging him (striking the runner with a thrown ball). The National Association of Baseball Players became the first organized league. They supported their efforts by charging admission, accepting donations, and getting sponsors. Of course, winning became extremely important. Some players were secretly paid. The Civil War brought a dramatic decrease in the number of teams. However, on the positive side, the game was introduced to other parts of the United States by Union soldiers. This is probably where the myth that Abner Doubleday invented the game came about. In 1869 the first professional baseball team was founded. This was the Cincinnati Red Stockings. They barnstormed across the country. In 1871 the first professional league was founded. This was called the dead ball era. The ball simply

did not go as far as it does today. The game continued to evolve until it is what we have today. The game is played all over the world. Kids still dream of being a big leaguer some day. I think back to when I played, which wasn't that long ago. I played until I was fifty. My son played and now his sons are playing. The game keeps going along, getting better and better.

BIRTHDAYS

Helen Jones—August

Gloria Tracy—July

William Smith—June

ANNIVERSARIES

Chuck & Lucille Hayes--July

Steve & Cindy Gant—June

Bill & Margaret Smith-June

John & Helen Goomas-Aug

Bev & Ken Waller--June

STRANGE QUESTIONS

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Did you ever notice that when you blow in a dog's face, he gets mad at you, but when You take him for a car ride, he sticks his head out the window?

Contacts

PRESIDENT: Ben Clay – 248-2060 – bpbjclay@yahoo.com

VICE PRES: Mike Kinney – 248-4197

SECRETARY: Shari Willer – 248-2670 – svwiller@gmail.com

TREASURER: Judy Wilke – 248-2496

EDITOR: Lucille Hayes – 624- 4455 – lucilleh@charter.net

WEBSITE: www.lake-summerset.com--link to OCHS

FROM THE PAST**RAY WISHOP CLAIMS TITLE: Plowing Contest**

Ray Wishop, Hononegah high school Future Farmer of America chapter member, took first place Monday in the first annual Winnebago county level land plowing contest for F.F.A. and 4-H members, held on the Chester Fredlund farm on Old River Rd. Included in the day's events was the annual Winnebago county soil judging event, won by Durand high school's F.F.A. team for the second straight year. In individual and judging competition Robert Lyons, Durand high school, was first; and in sectional soil judging competition Polo high school took top honors. Despite the fact that dry conditions hampered plowing, the meet was termed a success, with about 200 persons attending, including 150 boys from area F.F.A. chapters and 4-H clubs. In the plowing contest second place went to Lyons, and third went to James McDonald, Winnebago high school. In county soil judging, Winnebago high school was second; Hononegah high school third, and Pecatonica high school fourth. In the individual soil judging in the county, second went to Wishop; third to James Roettiger, Winnebago high school' fourth to Eugene Laube, and fifth to Roland Boyer, both of Durand high school. Second place in sectional judging went to Mount Morris high school; and third to Durand high school. There were 12 teams competing. Sponsors of the event, which will be held annually, were the Rockford Junior Assn. of Commerce, the county S.C.S., the county Extension service; the Winnebago County vocational-agriculture instructors; and area farm implement dealers.

(Editor note: the above is copied as is from a 1957/1958 Morning Star paper.)

OTTER CREEK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP \$10.00YR

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY & STATE

PHONE

Otter Creek Historical Society

★ American Girl®
Doll Raffle



Win American Girl Doll
Kit Kittridge



PLUS: A One of a Kind
Handmade Table and Chairs
made especially for Kit and Tea Set

Tickets

\$5⁰⁰ each OR 6 FOR \$25⁰⁰

Tickets available at area merchants displaying this poster, any Otter Creek Historical Society Member or Contact Ben Clay at 815-248-2060

Buy a raffle ticket May 1 through Nov. 19, 2011
for a chance to win American Girl Doll Kit Kittridge.
Drawing to be held Nov. 19, 2011 during
the Durand Village Meeting at 10:00 a.m.
All Proceeds to Benefit Otter Creek Historical Society

Just think how happy some young lady on your Christmas shopping list could be when you present her with this wonderful gift. Kit comes with her own tea set, a lovely outfit, and a beautifully crafted hand-made table with two chairs.

For a mere \$5.00 you can purchase your ticket, or get 6 for just \$25.00. Considering that the entire outfit costs a few hundred dollars, this can be a real bargain.

Look for this poster in various local businesses and just stop in. You'll also be helping your Otter Creek Historical Society keep up their fine programs, and get a building of their own.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Saturday, June 25th.....10:00 a.m. Durand State Bank
 Michael Keaton Coin & Currency Collection
 Refreshments will be served

Sunday, July 3rd... 4th of July Parade

Saturday, July 30th... Tour Rockton Historical Society
 Museum. Lunch 11 a.m. Elderberry Tea House

Saturday, August 27th ...10 a.m. Durand State Bank
 Russ Sarver collection of baseball cards and
 other memorabilia. Refreshments will be served

SOUTHERNER'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY

Artery.....The study of paintings
 Bacteria.....Back door to the cafeteria
 Barium.....What doctors do when patients die
 Benign.....What you be, after you be eight
 Caesarean Section...A neighborhood in Rome
 Cauterize.....Made eye contact with her
 Dilate.....To live long
 Enema-----Not a friend
 Labour Pain.....Getting hurt at work
 Morbid.....A higher offer
 Recovery Room.....Place to do upholstery
 Rectum.....Dang near killed him
 Terminal Illness-----Getting sick at the airport
 Tumor.....One plus one more

(Received from Catherine Banks, Freeport)

Otter Creek Historical Society
c/o Durand Village Hall
P.O. Box 166
Durand IL 61-24

