



# The Cornpicker

Bulletin of Fairbury, IL Rotary Club

*Fairburyrotary.com*



2010 - 2011 Officers

President . . . . . Becky Whitfill  
 Pres. Elect . . . . .  
 Vice President . . . . .  
 Sec/Treas/Editor . . . . . Leroy McPherson

**DATE/TIME/PLACE:** Nov 22, 2011 - 12:00 noon at Marchelloni's

**ATTENDANCE:** 25 + Jim Guiliford, Denise Kinzer

**LOTTO:** Josh Clemons and Steve Weeks

## **ACTION ON THE AVENUES**

### CLUB SERVICE

Programs:

- 11/29 - Spencer Homan
- 12/06 - Christmas Party
- 12/13 - J.H. Student Council
- 12/20 - OPEN
- 12/27 - John Rich

Membership:

**Polio Program:** We need \$5.00 per member to send in for the National Quarter Challenge

**Rotary Christmas Party**  
 December 6 at 6:30 p.m.  
**"The Magic of Joel Shoemaker"**  
 Magician

Call Leroy if you're attending.



### COMMUNITY SERVICE



**Salvation Army Kettle**  
 Sign up sheets - Dec. 1, 9 and 16.  
 Call Leroy or sign up at next meeting.

### AREA CLUB MEETINGS

Bloomington	12:00 Noon	Thurs.	Second Presbyterian Church
Gibson City	6:45 a.m.	Wed.	The Country Kettle
Gilman	6:05 p.m.	Tues.	Gilman Lounge
Lincoln	1:50 a.m.	Wed.	Elks Country Club
Normal	12:00 Noon	Wed.	Bone Student Center

# FORREST'S HAMPSHER HOTEL

Jim Guilford



Jim first took us back 141 years when agriculture and the railroad built up the town of Forrest. To help service passengers and workers, a hotel was built, followed by two more hotels. In 1911 the

Hampsher Hotel was built, bringing the total hotels to four. The

three original hotels were eventually torn down. We jumped to 1975 when Mr. Miller bought the hotel and lived there with his mean cat and two monkeys. Mr. Miller was a collector of trains and railroad memorabilia. He left his possessions into a trust. He had a vision for the hotel to display his collection of trains



for all to enjoy. The Forrest Historical Society was established in 2001 to assist the trustees in managing the trust. There was a need for the hotel to be self-sustaining so they came up with the Bread & Breakfast idea. They needed to make sure they had funds for renovation and needed to make sure their money was protected. They went to court and dissolved the trust and turned it over to the Historical Society. In 2006 the renovation project started. They had to strip off the old exterior and



replace it with new cedar siding. They found a sample of the original siding color and matched it as closely as possible. Then they started on the inside. Old linoleum was glued down to the floors and had to be removed. Everything was dark and walls were covered with flowered wallpaper. Most of the wood floors were restored but the kitchen floor was hopeless. They were able to get corn crib siding to use on the floor in the kitchen.

Many different people sponsored rooms in the hotel. They could either do the work themselves or have it contracted out. Each room is unique. The Honegger Suite, The Lodge (or man cave), The Fernwood (Victorian), the Cottage (Early American). They have had guests from Germany and France among others and currently have a gentleman staying there that will be in residence for 4 weeks.

The Gift Shop is open Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 9:00 to 3:00 and tours may be given during that time.

They have had 3 weddings at the hotel, receptions, family gatherings and many luncheons. They have a luncheon once a month that is open to the public by reservation. The dining/living room seats 90-100 people and fills up by word of mouth - no advertising needed. The basement has also been renovated and has room for 30-40. They have an Inn Keeper that comes in to prepare breakfast and do laundry

They next took on the renovation of the Caboose that was donated by the Village of Chatsworth. A small train was



also acquired that is a replica of the Wabash Bluebird that holds 16 children and runs on a quarter mile track. Rides are given at the Wabash Festival.

Their final project was the Depot. Prairie Lands Foundation helped them acquire the land and turntable. All the brush was cleared away and next spring they will put the depot back in order and display all the trains in Mr. Miller's collection in addition to other trains and memorabilia that others will display.



The next event will be the Christmas Walk which will be held December 3 from 4:00 - 7:00 and is open to the public.

Jim answered many questions and closed the program by stating that this very successful project is a testimony to the wonderful volunteers who have come forward to make it possible.

**Brochure on next page**

THE  
FERNWOOD



THE  
COTTAGE



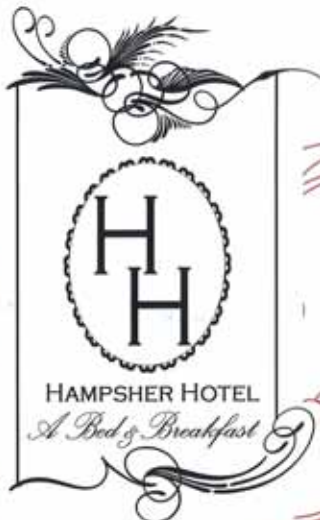
THE  
LODGE



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SUITE



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