

Illiana News

December 2020

Letter from Our President

Hello to all,

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I know everyone is ready to move on and resume a normal lifestyle once more. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, we can, each in our own way, give thanks for His blessings.

For those of you in the medical field and all the first responders, firemen, etc., we are deeply indebted to you all for what you are doing.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those families, that each of us know, who have or are suffering due to this terrible scourge.

Thank you to all those who came out on our work day to clean the grounds. It was done in short order! We have many members in Illiana and I'm thankful for all of your volunteering and all your varied talents which contribute to Illiana.

I'm looking forward to the new year. There will be no meetings in January and February. Hopefully, we can meet in March, but I will monitor the situation.

Stay safe and well,

Tom

No meetings in January or February

Be sure to get dues to Doris. See page 2.

Illiana Quilters News

Submitted by: Kathy Kyle



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We have not met since October, so no news from the quilters, but we would like to wish everyone a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year!**

*-Kathy Kyle*

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2020

IN MEMORIAM



Diane Bolin
Guy (Finny) Filchak
Jim Keith

Howard Snider
Johnny Tucker
John Young

Membership Dues

Please send your dues of \$20.00 for 2020 to Doris Manlief at:

**3618 Donna Dr.
Lafayette, IN 47905**

Pine Creek & Western R/R News

Submitted by: Charlie Lupinek

The Pine Creek & Western Railroad is quietly waiting for the Spring of 2021 to come along. Every Spring there is a massive amount of track work. The freezing and thawing during the winter moves the track as it expands and contracts with the Indiana weather changes. Leveling and ballasting begins before the trains begin to roll and continues into the fall as needed.

Plans for the 2021 railroading season continue, along with railroad equipment projects that the railroaders are working on in their shops. Come Spring, the rebuilding of the railroad yard will be happening, (removing track, leveling, replacing and adding track), and weed and grass control will begin, (mowing, painting, etc.). Adding up just the value of the locomotives owned by members of the Pine Creek & Western Railroad, it is surprising. Not taking into consideration the cars we all pull, just the locomotives, they are appraised at \$354,000, plus or minus maybe \$20,000. The railroad is a real point-to-point operating transportation railroad, just smaller; one half mile of track.

Mik Ado, PC & W RR Supt.

Right: Steve Dye, Pine Creek & Western Railroader, and Deb Dye, standing behind their steam locomotive.

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Below: Guy (Finny) Filchak, Pine Creek & Western Railroader standing by the train that carried the torch. Passed away September 26, 2020.

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(Both pictures were taken when the centennial torch traveled through the Illiana grounds.)



Rocky Forge Blacksmith News

Submitted by: Ted Stout

Our group continues our “no meeting” policy which has been in effect since February. When the pandemic started, we were in the midst of building 30 gas forges, which left Ted’s shop with pieces and parts stored until we can return to business.

State and National blacksmith organizations discourage having meetings until further notice.

We recently lost one of our founding members and a member of Illiana. Jim Keith passed away October 30th. Jim was 74 and had created a real legacy with National and International awards for his expertise as a farrier. His full obituary can be found on “Family and Friends Mortuary,” Wingate, IN. He will be greatly missed at our meetings. Rest in peace our friend.

- Ted

