

“There’s a Tavern in the Town”

(Continued from previous page.)

The old stone jail on the west side of the alley — now the museum — was our village hall for many years. When I was a teenager, the heavy, old jail bars were still leaning against the north side of the building. One Halloween night about ten or fifteen of us dragged them up to Bears Grocery Store on the east end of Cherry Street and propped them against the front door. Glen Bear had to get help from the village fathers before he could open that morning.

We received a grant during the 1976 celebration of our country’s founding. At that time an addition was added to the north end of the jail and it became the museum’s Jane Addams Room.

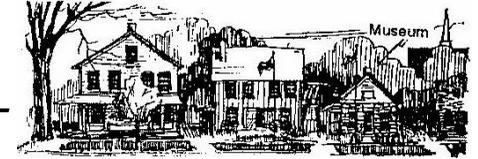
Lest someone correct me on the *Bright Spot* being the only tavern I recollect in Cedarville, let me comment. The tavern on the south edge of the village is not in the village limits. It is licensed by the county. The village has been voted dry numerous times since prohibition days. I will see you next month.



The Bright Spot building on Cherry Street as it looks today.

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

MARCH 2005



Cedarville Area Historical Society

Randy Nieman (top) and Al Bawinkel, Randy’s Electric, install outlets in the north room of the 1889 school. Eleven floor boxes will provide 44 outlets in the room that is to house the historical society’s museum. There will also be 9 globe ceiling lights.



Historical Society Pushes Work On 1889 School

With May — the traditional opening time of the Cedarville Museum — looming on the horizon, volunteers and companies are stepping up efforts to get the 1889 school ready for use by the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

Work started in the middle of March to install electricity in the north room where the museum exhibits will be placed. At the same time, volunteers began repairing and painting the walls and ceiling in that room. By the end of March, Fisher Excavating, Freeport, is scheduled to hook up the new handicapped accessible bathrooms to the village water supply. If all goes as planned, the museum will open on May 1. However, if necessary to complete work, the date will be delayed.

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“I Remember When “: Another Former Resident Talks of Past

(The editor of Echoes was pleasantly surprised a few days ago by a letter from Burlyn Kriens, Rock Falls, Il., a former Cedarville resident. His comments follow. Readers also might want to read more of LeRoy Wilson’s memories which are on pages 7 and 8.)

I remember when:

Dr. Thompson’s office was in his home on the corner of Mill and Oak Streets.

Lester Shippy saw a fire in the barn just across Cedar Creek bridge. The fire department uncovered a working still. Hundreds of gallons of raw whiskey were run into the creek.

Jane Addams’ body was returned to Cedarville for burial. We students each held an American flag and lined the east fork of the cemetery road and sang “America the Beautiful” when the hearse came past us.

The Evangelical Church on Harrison burned to the

ground. The second church on Cedar Street was almost ready to move into when it too caught fire. This also burned to the ground. Rev. Polson was the acting minister at that time.

Joe Louis fought Two-Ton Tony Galento. Clyde Kaiser brought a radio and a microphone to the community house and we all sat outside to listen to the fight.

We put on a minstrel show to pay for cementing the basement of the community house. Ray Davidson and Don Reed were the end men. I was the only white person in the cast. I sang a solo “My Man” accompanied by Alreda Zim



Dr. Thompson’s home and office, Mill and Oak.

“There’s a Tavern in the Town” (Well, at Least Seventy Years Ago)

By LeRoy Wilson

Last month we visited Strohms store on the northeast corner of Cherry and Mill streets. Let’s go a little east of this location and see what it looked like in the early nineteen thirties.

Prior to prohibition, the garage-like building sitting on the east side of the alley adjacent to the current historical society museum was the location of the only tavern I can recollect in my time in Cedarville. It was known as the **Bright Spot**.

It was owned and operated by Max Fox. I remember it well. There were times when I and my siblings were sent there to persuade my father it was time to come home. It was a busy place with much celebrating and card playing. The small lean-to attached to the east side was a barber shop. Here I got my first store bought haircut. Prior to this my grandmother cut my hair with a hand operated shears. It would cut two hairs and pull out one.

Max was a versatile fellow. Along with his tavern, he ran the barber shop. Some years after he left the tavern, he

became a tragic victim. Both his legs were removed at the hips. I don’t know the reason, but it was not due to an accident. I remember seeing him on the downtown streets of Freeport. He had a wood platform on small casters that he would get around on and he sold pencils.

The **Bright Spot** building was later owned by Grover and Nora Oswald. They ran a small grocery store and the men continued to play cards and pitch horse shoes at the location. Grover installed lights along the alley and one could hear the shoes clanging late into the night. *(Continued on next page.)*



This advertising calendar for Bright Spot measures 3 3/8 by 5 1/4 inches. It is owned by Mr. and Mrs. David Huber, Cedarville.

Historical Society Archives Hold Unusual, Rare Pieces of the Past

Along with the mundane, the Cedarville Area Historical Society filing cabinets and storage areas are home to some unusual and some rare artifacts.

Certainly classified as rare is a photograph of Jane Addams, probably taken about 1865 when she was four. It is the only known copy of the photo.

The society also has the 1875 diary of Miss Addams. It has entries covering the first six months of the year.

Anna Marcet Halde man, niece of Jane Addams, in 1916 wrote a book containing a collection of Cedarville-based fairy tales. The society's copy is auto-



Jane Addams, age 4

graphed by the author.

Keeping it in the family, the historical society has a Cedarville school related letter signed by Miss Addams' father.

The second name on the letter is that of Marcus Montelius, the original surveyor of the area around Mill Street. The letter is in very fragile condition.

Another original document in the society's files is the Civil War diary of Henry Carl and his wife Susannah Kryder Carl. Henry was wounded and died in Georgia. It is believed his body is still there, but his diary found its way back to Cedarville.

Historical Society Officers Elected At March Meeting

Jim Bade was re-elected president of the Cedarville Area Historical Society at the board's March meeting.

Also re-elected were Narcissa Engle, vice president, and Ruth Smith, treasurer. Denise Rogers was elected secretary.

Other board members are: Mary Reed, Dave Kaiser, Steve Myers, Moira Knowlton and Neal Scheider.

Zimmerman on the piano. We were invited to put the show on in Orangeville High School Gym.

Mrs. Virgil Fry (Lorraine) had a tea room on Cedar Street. (See photographs.)

Judge Dexter Knowlton drove around Cedarville in a 1934 gray Ford coupe.

Max Fox had a barber shop in the back room of the Bright Spot. (That was a local store which now is the garage east of the museum.)

A tornado passed two miles north of Cedarville. We had German prisoners of war to help clean up the mess. I remember they were clad in black and white prisoners suits



Exterior of Lorraine Fry's tea room on Cedar Street. The building was once a church.



Interior of Lorraine Fry's tea room on Cedar Street.



Ryan Mullen sands floor close to wall of 1889 Cedarville school north room.



Steve Myers guides heavy belt sander over 784 sq. ft. north room floor.



Jim Bade finishes south room window second coat of paint.



Steve Myers blows textured finish on walls and ceiling of north room.



Push to Complete 1889 School Work

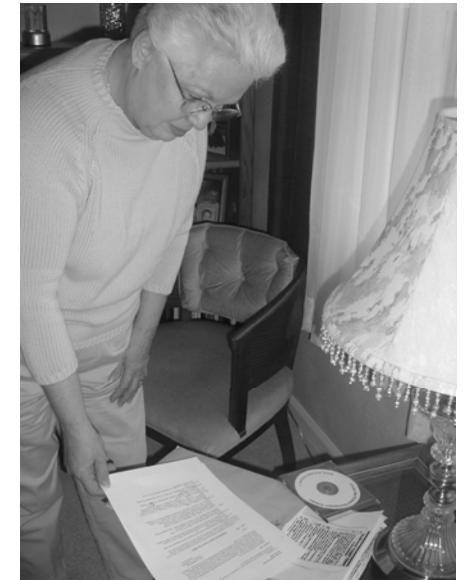
(from page 1)

The first floor north room of the building has 784 square feet. The two-room current museum is approximately the same size, but much of the area is not useable for exhibits. It is expected more displays will be possible at the school site.

The south room of the school, which is smaller than the north, will be used for historical society meetings and programs. No major work is expected to be done in that room until the winter of 2005 – 06. The two upstairs rooms will not be used at this time.

To pay for this final work, the historical society is seeking funds through two programs:

1. Sponsorship of a blackboard is available for between \$72 and \$96.. Only eight of the original 42 blackboards lack a sponsor.
2. Direct construction contributions totaling \$4,500 that would be limited to this final work phase are being sought. For more information regarding these programs, call Society President Jim Bade at 815-563-4485.



Betty Amodeo, Cedarville, a historical society member and volunteer, inspects some of the results of her work that involved transcribing photocopies of nineteenth century news articles that involved Cedarville, entering the articles into her computer, printing them and recording them on a CD. These electronic documents will become part of the historical society's archives. The articles were researched and photocopied by Ladona Wardlow, Freeport, another historical society member, through funding provided by Mr. And Mrs. Ray Cronau, Cedarville, also members of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Mrs. Amodeo has started work on another set of the Wardlow photocopies.