

Christmas Sing-a-long and other items

The Cedarville Area Historical Society Christmas Sing-a-long will be Tuesday, December 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Cedarville Museum. Carole Bertram will be at the museum's 1906 upright piano and song sheets will be furnished. Admission and refreshments are free.

Coming Home

Don Morris, principal of the Cedarville School from 1950 to 1956 will visit the

village on October 18, 19 and 20. For more information contact Jim Bade at 815-563-4485.

Need More

The historical society still needs clean sheets and pillow cases for protecting artifacts. The society also needs property abstracts for the archives. The society will return them with a CD containing the information.. There is no cost.



Dwayne Bell was one of the best shearers of sheep in Stephenson County. When he joined the Marines in the 1950's, Dale, his father, said he would take over his son's job even though Bell senior had never sheared a sheep in his life. He was quoted as saying "it was easy. The top picture shows Dale wrestling with his first sheep on the farm south of Cedarville. Watching are, from left, Norman Kaiser, his father, Leo Kaiser and Karl Erickson. The bottom picture shows the results of Dale's inaugural and last attempt to shear a sheep. We assume the animal recovered to lead a normal and productive life although he may have been shunned by the others for awhile as an ugly duckling.



ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE OCTOBER 2007

Cedarville Area Historical Society



World War II Vets to Tell Tales

Five Cedarville area World War II veterans will relive their experiences of the five year conflict during this year's fifth and final evening program of the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

The Tuesday, October 9, program will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Cedarville Museum located on top of the Second Street hill in the village.

Participants will include Harlan Corrie, Bill Angle, LeRoy Wilson, Wally Hutchison and Tony Sciutto. Jim Bade, president of the historical society, will act as moderator.

The tickets are \$2 for historical society

members and \$3 for non-members. They are available at the museum from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on weekends, at the Jane Adams Community Center or at the door.

In addition to the panel of veterans, the program will feature Carole Bertram playing World War II popular songs on the museum's 1906 upright piano.

Final Newsletter for 2007

The newsletter of the Cedarville Area Historical Society is published ten times a year from January to October. Next issue will be January 2008. The museum and historical society services remain available by calling 815-563-4485.



Harlan



Bill



LeRoy



Wally



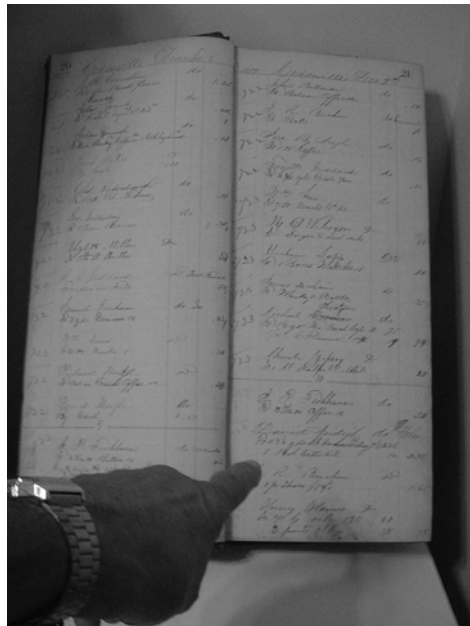
Tony

150-year-old Book Filled with Marvels

By Jim Bade

Talk about the good old days!

This month I had a chance to spend several days examining a “day book” — or ledger — of the James Benson-Dan Ilgen general store that flourished at 265 N. Mill Street in Cedarville during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The store and building — now gone — was first owned by James Benson and later by Dan Ilgen, his son-in-law.



Measuring 8 by 17 inches the ledger contains 638 pages of entries from November 19, 1859, to March 1, 1862.

The heavy ledger with three year’s transactions — starting in 1859 — contains the names of several hundred Cedarville area residents at that time and a list and prices of items they purchased. Descendants of the Benson-Ilgen families made it available for inspection.

Customers included John H. Addams (who bought a mill saw file for sixty cents), Robert and Thomas Bell, Levi Fahs, Jacob Latshaw, Hiram Clingman, John B. Clingman, Jacob Sills, Dr. Samuel Bucher, William Bike, Daniel Coble, William Jackson, John Bollman, David Neidigh, John Graham, Robert Jones, Daniel Kostenbader and on and on.

What did they buy?

One gallon of vinegar, 20 cents; one gallon of whiskey, \$1.00; a tobacco plug, 5 cents; seven pounds of dried apples, 70 cents; two balls of candle wick, 10 cents; one barrel of salt, \$1.90; and two No. 1 candles, 36 cents.

Also, one pair of shoes, \$1.50; one gallon of molasses, 64 cents; six pounds of rice, 50 cents; 15 pounds of sugar, \$1.50; one pair overshoes, \$1.20; one bottle of castor oil, 12 cents; one jug of whiskey, \$1.07. (Perhaps the container cost more.)

Prices sound great, but then a farm laborer at that time earned about \$20 a month with room and board thrown in.

Marcet Bliss, great granddaughter of Sarah Alice Addams Haldeman, the sister of Jane Addams, on September 11 made a surprise visit to the Cedarville Museum to view the collections and, along with her husband, to become a member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. From left are Marcet, her husband, Ken, Narcissa Engle, vice president of the society, and Mary Reed, a member of the society board. The Blisses live in Leesburg, Fl.



Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Goodspeed and Mr. and Mrs. Duane Smith, the Cedarville Area Historical Society is now the owner of an outstanding painting of the original Henney Buggy Works building done by the late Cedarville artist Stella Perkins and a multi-colored blanket almost certainly created by Philip Rassweiler, well-known nineteenth century Cedarville weaver. Purchased by the two couples at a recent auction, the historical artifacts were presented to the society at the September 11 evening program. The top picture shows Duane Smith, left, and Roger Goodspeed unveiling the Perkins’ painting. In the bottom picture, Jane and Roger Goodspeed display the blanket. Mrs. Perkins, who moved to Cedarville in 1935, died in 1980 at the age of 89. Rassweiler, who had a weaving shop on the northeast corner of Mill and Oak streets, was known for his fine work and colorful, intricate patterns.



Cedarville Cliff Tag, Anyone?

By LeRoy Wilson

Attending Cedarville School many years ago gave students unique opportunities and experiences. During the early spring and fall days, we spent our recesses and before and after school crawling on the cliffs north of the school house. I don't think our teachers and parents always were aware of this.

It was mostly a game of daring one another to try and go where no one else would venture. It would start out with a game of "tag" and end up "follow the leader". We would crawl down the face of the cliff and work our way along, hanging onto the rocks, stumps and small trees. I don't think there is another town in Stephenson County that offered the terrain found around Cedarville.

I recall a group of us once decided to try to crawl the cliffs from the bridge on the Red Oak Road to the bridge on Route 26. Now that's a rough trip. A couple of the guys ended up slipping, but they were lucky enough to fall into the creek. Some of the places you had to crawl your way to the top of the cliff and walk along the edge to get past a sheer drop area. Just below Goodspeed's house is an example of one of these locations.

Of course, the leaders of these expeditions made it as hard as possible. Where the guy ahead of you went, you were

were forced to go. Failing to do this caused you to loose face and that was hard to live with.

My greatest fear playing cliff tag or follow the cliff leader was snakes. The cliffs of Cedarville area home to copper heads and they are mean. I am frightened of a garter snake, so copper heads made me sprout wings and fly.

When I came upon a snake, I could find hand holds where there weren't any. The guys always knew when I came upon one. They could hear me holler all the way in town.

While writing this, I thought it would be wonderful to share this experience with the historical society today. I want to ask Jim and Bonnie Bade or the Corries to lead a group on a cliff climb. I'll meet you down by the bridge when you get back. I'll have a fire going and Gayle will roast the wieners.

(I don't know about the others, LeRoy, but count me out. Growing up in Des Plaines, Il., in the late 1930's, I often swung fearlessly branch-to-branch like an orangutan in a sixty foot high box elder tree with the sharp picket fence surrounding our dog yard directly below me. The next year I fell from a drain pipe six inches off the ground and broke my left arm. No thanks. Jim Bade)



Bonnie describes the miniature country school houses in her collection.



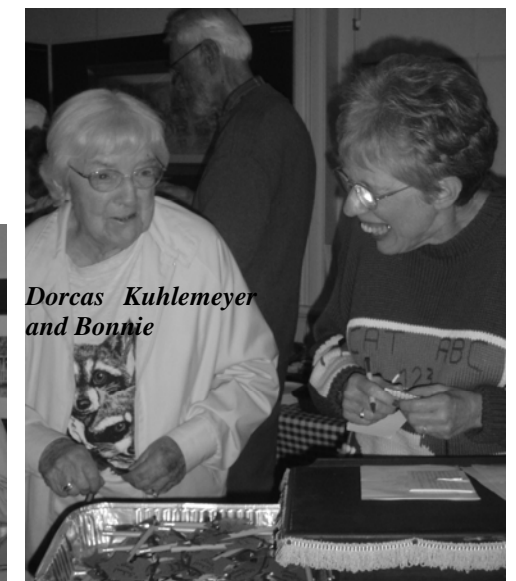
Al chats with Mary Tomalla during the show's intermission

Bonnie's & Al's Show

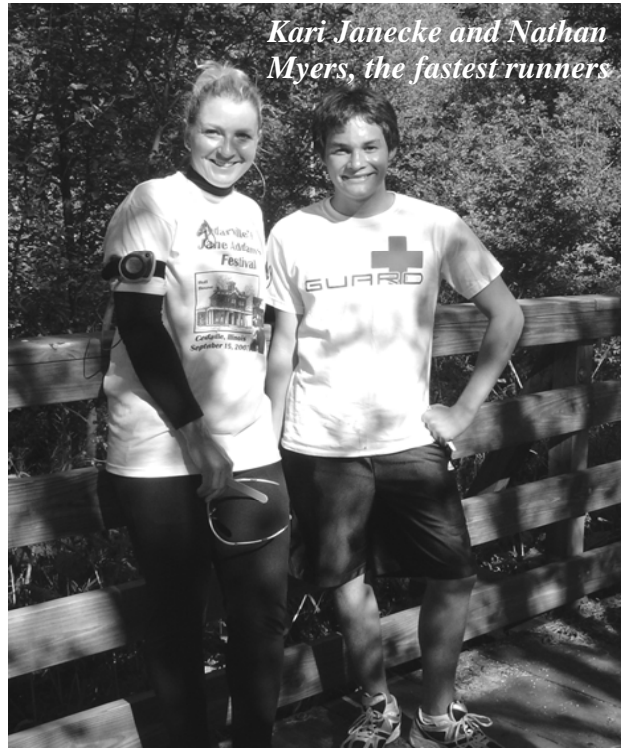
Bonnie and Albert Scheider of Orangeville drew applause and many chuckles from the full house audience when they entertained September 11 with a piano and school quiz program at the museum.



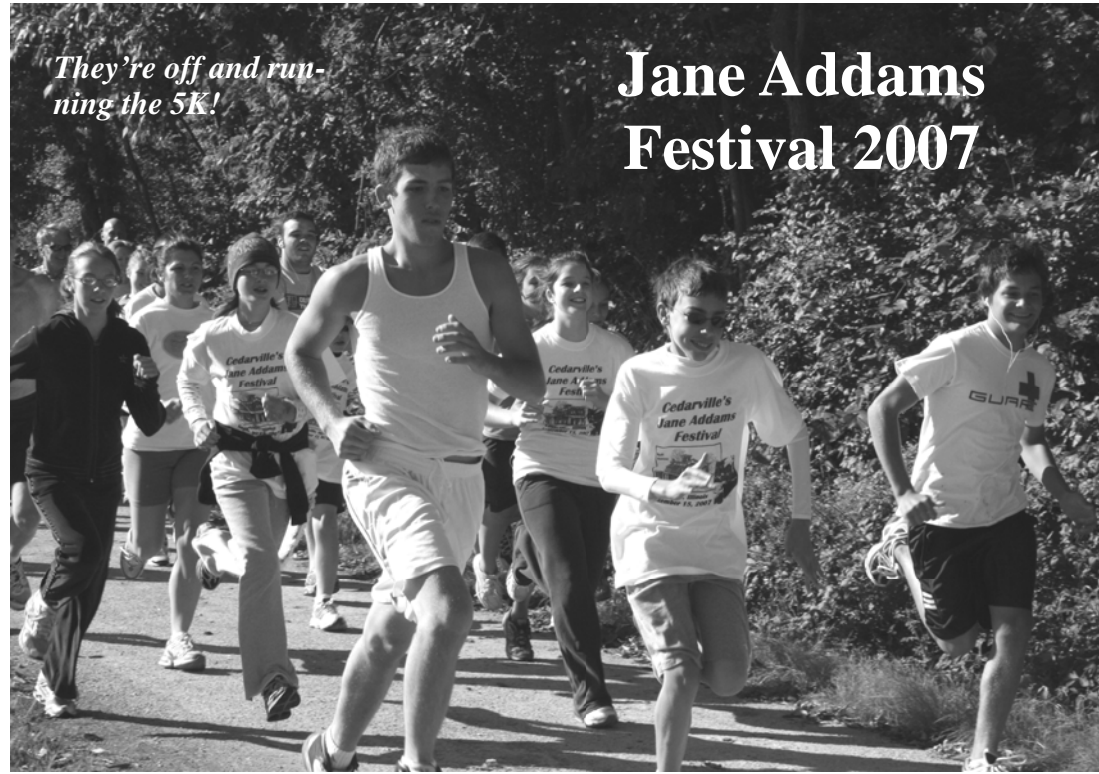
Dan Edler, left, and Duane Smith



Dorcas Kuhlemeyer and Bonnie



Kari Janecke and Nathan Myers, the fastest runners



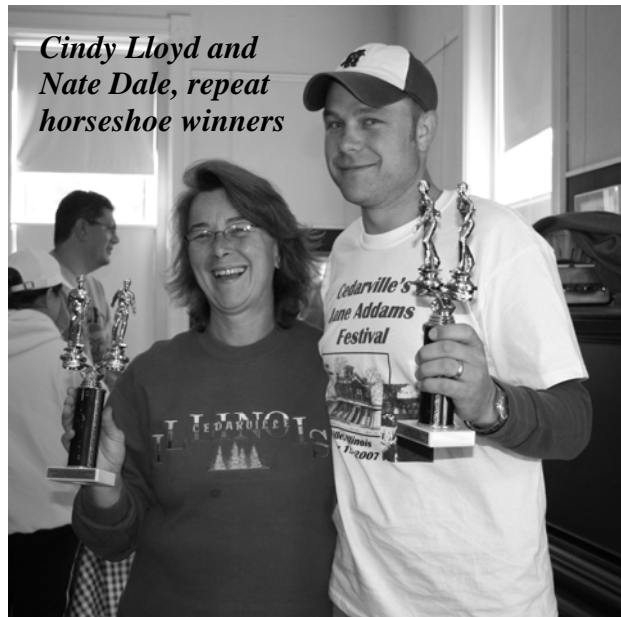
They're off and running the 5K!

Jane Addams Festival 2007

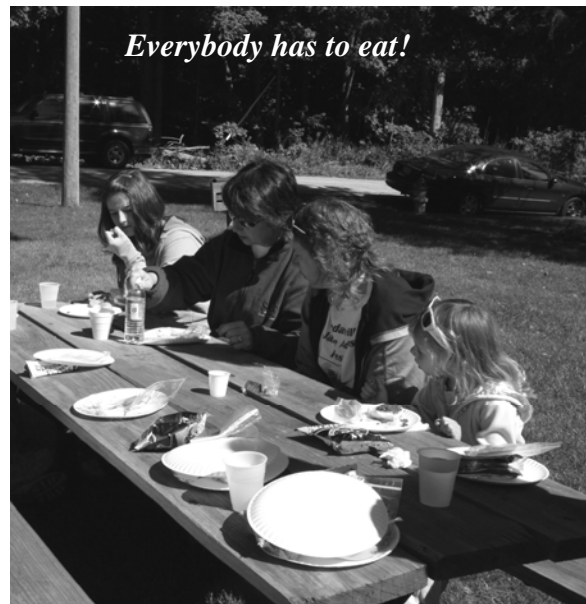


Second fastest was Jacob Rutter

Photos by
Katie Myers,
Wendy Gilpin,
Jim Bade



Cindy Lloyd and Nate Dale, repeat horseshoe winners



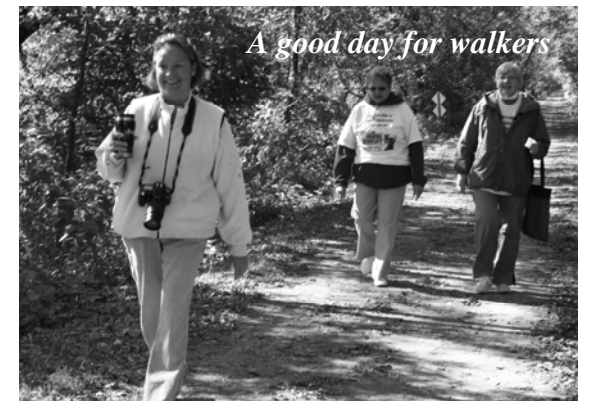
Everybody has to eat!



The ever popular sack race, Cedarville style



Money and candy in the hay!



A good day for walkers