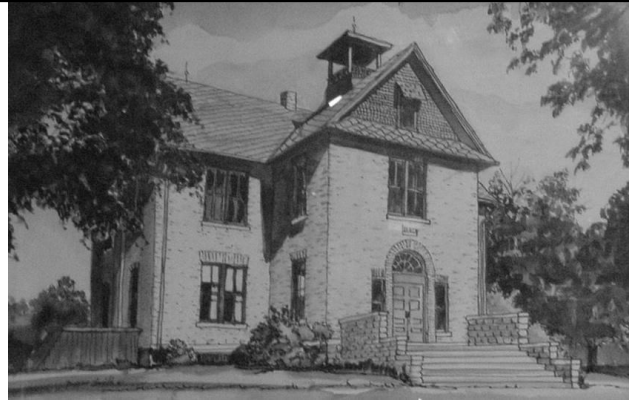


# **ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE March-April 2025**

***Cedarville Area Historical Society***



## **Museum Updates**

Many thanks to all of you who attended our 23rd annual Chili Luncheon. This year was our biggest event since prior to COVID. It was great to see all of our members, friends and neighbors gather together and share news and stories from near and far. For those that were unable to attend, this publication includes photos of many of the attendees. See if you can identify them. Our thanks to the many volunteers who helped to make this luncheon a success. A special call out to Keefen Schutte for all of his assistance at the event, especially for clearing tables AND doing dishes.

Our summer programs have not been selected but the dates must still be finalized

- Highland Community College Lifelong Learning, Metal Detecting Class (May 12th, 1:00-3:00)
- International Museum Day (May 18th)
- Memorial Day Parade and Festivities
- History of the Oakdale Tabernacle landmark
- Abraham Lincoln and the Addams Family
- Old Settlers Day Celebrations
- History of the Cedarville School
- Cedarville Historical SpooF (originally presented live in 2009)

During the luncheon members were asked to cast their vote for the retention of three of our Board Members. As a result of your votes our 2025 Board Members are: Sally Kryder Anderson, Sharon Bar-more, Galen Bertram, Andy Dvorak, Wendy Gilpin, Lisa Goodwin, Moira Knowlton and Steve Myers. Officers will be elected from this group at the Board's March meeting.

In speaking with some of our members during the Chili Luncheon it became apparent that many of our members are not aware of what their membership dues pay for. Like any household there are many basic costs that go along with keeping a building operating. Here's where the money went for operational expenses during the year of 2024.

We are lucky that our Board President is tech savvy and he has outfitted our building with modern technology that allows us to control building temperature from off site. Our electric bill with Commonwealth Edison was \$1550.40. Nicor was \$1,978.85. Lets remember that the building is really only open roughly 15 days a year. Much of the heat and electricity is tied to service fees, not actual usage. Insurance for the building and its contents was \$1041.00. Landscaping ran us \$1832.48 (including fuel surcharge). Maintenance which covers a variety of items was \$1,151.19 (things like elevator inspections). In addition to what we consider building operational expenses we also have some basic items such as Internet which allows us to use the internet when we are on site and to take advantage of FB Live was \$804.00. Then of course there is the printing and postage for the newsletter which with the increase in postage was \$456.03. Programs were \$74.90 and Misc Expenses were \$569.17. After all is said and done our expenses for 2024 were \$9702.44. Our 2024 dues generated \$1348.52, which you can see fall far short of the expenses we incurred. We are able to offset some of that difference with the generous donations, and memorials from our members and friends. Admissions generated a poor showing with only \$113 this past year (members are free). We have other income that includes special events, programs, book sales, and a few other miscellaneous sources. All in all our income for 2024 was \$10,276.43. This reflects a very slim margin of profit of \$573.99. With today's costs going nowhere but up you can see that we are very close to losing ground. We believe that we need to grow our membership, attendance at our programs and continue to watch our expenditures. If any of you have any ideas on increasing income and decreasing expenditures, we are all ears.

## COMMUNITY MEMORIES

Bubble Gum and Marbles  
LeRoy Wilson  
1926-2008

In the past I have talked about how Strohm's grocery put up ice in the winter for summer use in Cedarville. In those days most people in the village had ice boxes. How many of you can remember keeping your food from spoiling in an ice box? Our ice box sat on the back porch. I had to be located so you could drain it easily to the outside because as the ice melted it made water. I can hear my grandma still: "Close that ice box door." So much for the ice when I was a child.

Strohms was a kind of hub in the village. It was a place where we could take our pennies and stare through the glass candy case forever. There were two things I cherished the most: big flat sticks of bubble gum and "guess whats."

In later years bubble gum came in round sticks, but in my day it came in wide, long, flat sticks. I would roll it up in a spiral tube and shove it in and start to chomp. That was heaven.

There were times when I was torn with anxiety. I wanted bubble gum, but I also wanted a "guess what." A "guess what" was folded in a paper wrapping. You knew you would get two small candy kisses, but what would the prize be? One never knew what the prize was. It could be a small whistle, a top, a picture or a small balsa airplane to assemble. Anyway, you get the idea. It was the gamble you took to find out what was in the "guess what" that always tempted me. And people, when you had only one penny to spend, you had to make it count. I still break out in a sweat thinking about it.

There was also a lot of marble playing done at Strohm's corner. There was no grass, just fine cinders—a great surface for shooting marbles. We played circle, diamond or hole marbles. We played keepers. What you won you got to keep. Sometimes I came home with bulging pockets, but many times the pockets were empty. If you would like an explanation of circle, diamond or hole, let me know. I can explain those rules at a later time. By the way: The best marble player in the village was Bob Bradley. No question about it.

I also remember attending dances in the hall on the second floor of Strohm's. I was too young to dance, but it was great fun to watch my Dad and older sister waltz around the floor.

So go back seventy years in time: Strohm's corner was a great place to have fun. And just up the street to the east was the Bright Spot, the only tavern I can remember in Cedarville. More about this later.

Editor's Note: LeRoy Wilson was a prolific writer and submitted many articles to the Cedarville Area Historical Society for use as we saw fit. Many of those articles have yet to be published and we will be using them in future editions of our newsletter. The article above was submitted by LeRoy in 2006, so his reference to "seventy years" would now be ninety years. The Strohm building refers to the building located on the northeast corner of Mill and Cherry Street, believed to have been constructed in 1875 and as LeRoy eludes to there were many dances at "Strohm's Hall". The building was at one time the location of the Henney Buggy factory. We have been unable to locate any information on the "best" marble player, but if any of you remember Bob Bradley, please let us know and we will update our records. Reference to the marble games:



*Hole* was a game played with two teams and two players, each with one marble. There were three holes and each player was to shoot their marble into the holes. Whichever team made all twelve holes was the *winner*. "Guess What" candy was a wrapped candy (candy kisses) that was made by the Williamson Company which also made the Oh Henry candy bars. It advertised that there was a prize in every box.

# 2025 Chili Luncheon



Keefen Schutte



Marjorie Phillips



Jim and Sharon Barmore, Susan Hutchmaker and Lorraine



Wendy, Andy, Carole, Galen, and Sally  
(volunteers)  
Karen Hauser & Ladona Wardlow  
James and Cindy Witt



Suzy Beggin's Family



Sally Kryder and Bill Green



John Reed



The Schuttes & Toni Galster



Leonard Cummings and Rhonda Geidd



Bill Pick and Sherry Maves



Jonathon Stanger, Rose Binns, Judy Corrie and President Steve Myers



Bade Girls

***Cedarville Area Historical Society***  
1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport IL 61032

Postage

***Return Service Requested***

Museum Hours Saturdays 1:00PM-4:00PM (June, July and August)

Museum is always available by appointment

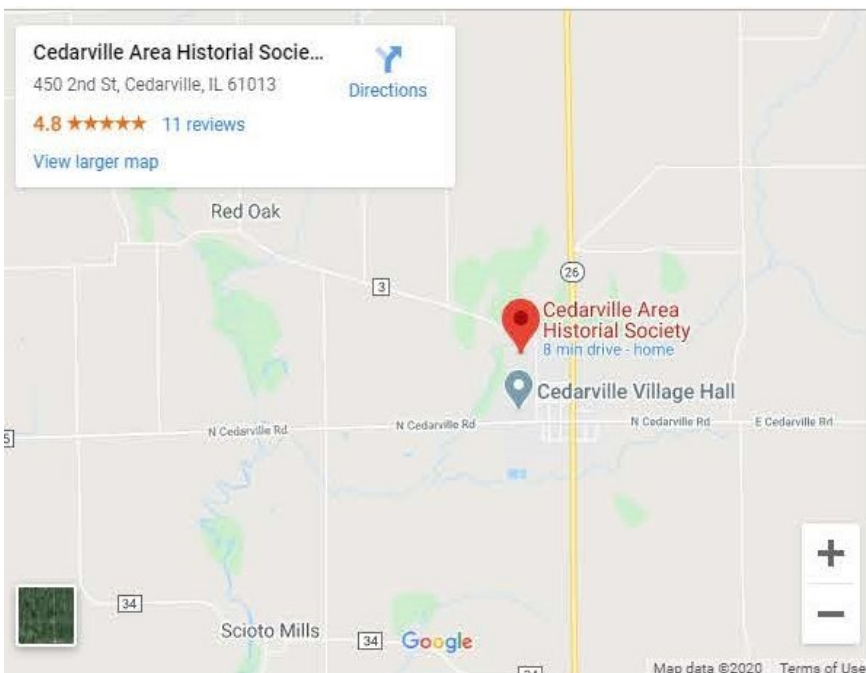
During non-open hours you can utilize the Ring doorbell and we will do our best meet you at the museum

Museum facilities are available for private functions (weddings, reunions, meetings)

Call or text 815-990-0417 or 815-847-9127 to reserve or email: [info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org)



***We thank those of you who have submitted your renewals and would also like to thank those of you who have made additional donations to CAHS***



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**Facebook-Cedarville Area Historical Society**  
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*Steve Myers, President*  
*Lisa Goodwin, Vice President*  
*Galen Bertram, Treasurer*  
*Sharon Barmore, Secretary*  
*Andy Dvorak, Director*  
*Wendy Gilpin, Director*  
*Moira Knowlton, Director*  
*Sally Kryder Anderson, Director*

*The society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government and has been designated as eligible for tax deductible gifts under IRS tax code regulation 501 (c)(3).*