

Need Something Different for Gift?

Christmas is over, but gift giving never stops, even if it's a gift for yourself. If you can't come up with something different for a friend (or yourself), why not consider something from the Cedarville Area Historical Society?

For those who think they know all about Jane Addams, consider **Generous Spirit** by Cedarville's Paul Fry. This well-researched book (price \$19 plus \$4 shipping) is the biography of Paul's Aunt Mary Fry who spent most of her life living with Jane's stepmother and other members of the family. The book contains many personal insights into Jane's life.

Then there are the packages of note cards (\$7.50 for six cards and envelopes plus \$2 shipping) illustrating Cedarville scenes as portrayed by village artists.

How about the revised biography of the young Jane Addams as told by the late Ronald Beam of Cedarville. This is a new version with revisions by Paul Fry. The cost: only \$12 plus \$3 shipping.

Want a chuckle? Try reading either volume one or volume two (or both) of humorous tales about Cedarville as told by the late LeRoy Wilson. Only \$9 for each plus \$3 shipping for one, \$5 for both.

There's a wonderful book of Cedarville sketches text that was originally pro-

duced for the 1976 U.S. bicentennial. Only \$6 plus \$3 for shipping.

The Clingmans were among the founders of Cedarville. There's a 300 page book of family diaries and letters and a book of 33 letters exchanged between two Clingman sisters. Both are annotated with explanatory notes. The larger book is \$29 plus \$5 for shipping; the book of 33 letters is \$24 plus \$4 shipping.

Time to please a friend or yourself!

Cedarville Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 336
Cedarville, IL 61013
Phone: 815-563-4202
Web site:
www.cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org
E-mail:
info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

Jim Bade, President
Narcissa Engle, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Steve Myers, Director
Mary Reed Director
Neil Scheider, Director
Gina Cole, Director
Ruth Smith, Director
Sharon Barmore, Director

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

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

February 2010

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Society Annual Meeting, Lunch Feb. 7

The annual meeting of the Cedarville Area Historical Society and the society's traditional chili/soup/sandwich lunch will be held Sunday, February 7, in the Jane Addams Community Center on West Washington Street in the village.

The 11 a.m. annual meeting will be in one of the building's former classrooms and will include the election of three members to the board of directors, a financial report and information regarding future plans of the society. After the short meeting, members will go to the building's gym to join those assembled to enjoy the lunch which will run until 1 p.m.

Lunch tickets are \$5 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. The tickets will be available at the gym door.

Nominees for three year terms on the society's board are Gina Cole, Jim Bade and a third person to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mary Reed who has served on the board for more than 15 years. Cole and Bade are current board members with expiring terms.

Continuing board members are Galen Bertram, Sharon Barmore, Neal Scheider, Ruth Smith, Steve Myers and Narcissa Engle.

The board will hold its organizational meeting in early February at which time officers will be elected from the board membership and other historical society business will be conducted.

At the annual meeting, Galen Bertram, historical society board treasurer, is expected to report that the society operated within its original budget in 2009 and that there are sufficient operational funds to start the new year. He will also make a report on funds currently available in the building restoration account and he will present the 2010 operational budget for approval.

Board President Jim Bade will comment on the progress being made toward the restoration of the second floor north room of the museum and programs and special events scheduled for 2010. Questions from members in the audience will be accepted.



Working in the museum's second floor north room in near freezing temperatures, Steve Myers has been able to measure and cut several slate blackboards from the south room that will be used to replace missing blackboards in the north room. Six storm windows for the north room were installed in September.



Gas pump in front of Shippy's on Mill Street in the early 1920s.

Some of the names recalled are Bender, the Koppeins, Harold and Robert Fink, Leonard and Clare Wilson, Merl and Everett Snyder, Davidson, Donald and Richard Noble, Elmer Hybarger, Pete Huenefeld and Donald, Gene and John Reed. During the period of the operation of the three stations, new computerized pumps, self service stations and other changes, especially increases in prices, introduced new trends.

Today a cycle has been completed. Again gasoline is dispensed in close proximity to the grocery store which is now designated as the convenience store.

A Mobile station stands on the southwest corner of Illinois Route 26 and the Cedarville-Lena Road directly west of the first station built in the 1920s. It is thoroughly modern. Its style is similar to the estimated more than 200,000 throughout the country that serve several hundred million cars, buses and trucks.

WANT TO HELP?

The Cedarville Area Historical Society depends on the support of its members. At the present time we need people to help in three areas.

1. The museum this year will feature an enlarged exhibit on Cedarville School and other former schools in the Cedarville area. If you attended the Cedarville School that is now the museum or any other school in the area, the society would appreciate your sharing a favorite photograph or a 100 word memory for the exhibit.
2. We need help creating a data base so we can quickly locate books, documents and artifacts in our research center. Is there any member who can help us?
3. Society members on May 18 and 19 will present an original musical spoof on the history of Cedarville. We need actors to portray the various persons in village history. No talent is required, just the desire to have fun and to entertain a sympathetic audience.



An unidentified attendant pumps gas at the station on Illinois Route 26 where Barkau's is now located. Because of the spare tire cover on the back of the vehicle publicizing "The Bright Spot", the couple has been tentatively identified as Mr. and Mrs. Sam Fox. Mr. Fox owned the business which was located on Cherry Street just east of the old village hall and jail.

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The third station was constructed at a later date by Donald Reed directly north of the Standard Oil Station built by Bender. Reed's experience as a station operator at the Wilson station and as a mechanic in a Freeport garage resulted in a building that provided for inside servicing of cars. The building had four large doors and ample space for serving four or more cars at the same time. Donald's son Gene now operates a vehicle servicing business there.

These three stations served the gas customers need for many years. The pumps at the three grocery stores had long since disappeared. The Shippy store on the northwest corner of Mill and Second streets — once owned by Jackson Richart — had burned. Strohm's on the northeast corner of Mill and Cherry streets had closed and the building was converted to apartments. John Bollman's

on the north side of east Cherry Street discontinued its pumps.

Through the years, numerous brands of gasoline were sold by the three gas stations. The first at Bender's was Standard Oil, but the logos of Shell, Mobile, Texaco, Marathon, Sinclair and others were also seen at various times through the years as companies changed names and station operators negotiated new franchises.

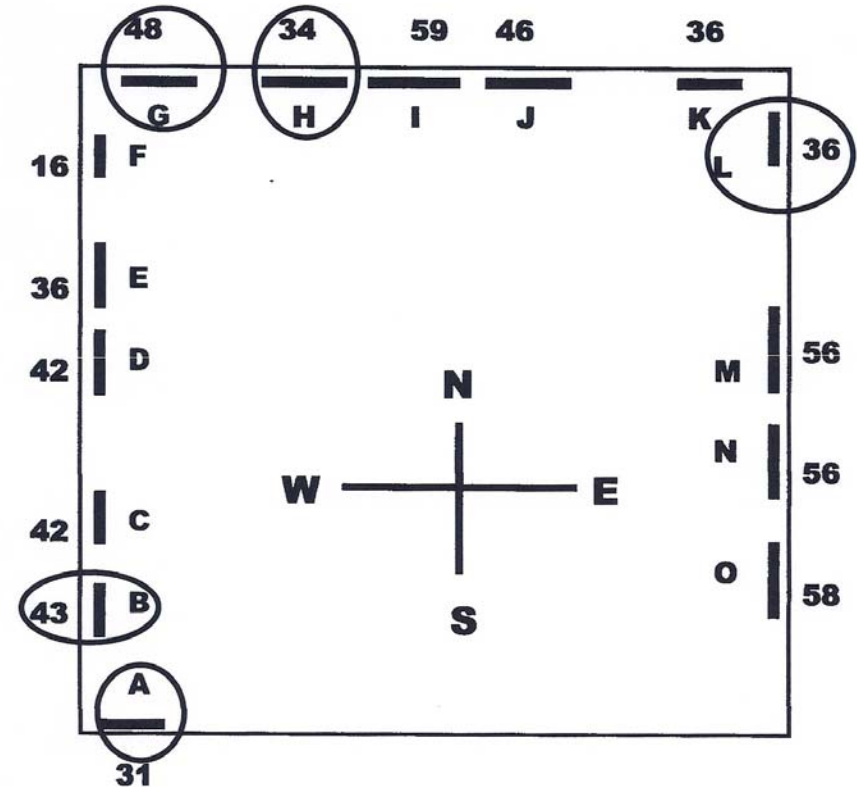
Operators through the years were known throughout the area as traffic increased following the construction of Illinois Route 26 in 1928 (originally known as Route 74).

The self-service station was in its infancy and had not found its way to Cedarville. The operators of the three village stations were full service operators. They checked oil, cleaned windshields and checked the air in tires.

Five Blackboards Still Available

Sponsorship has been claimed of ten of the original fifteen slate blackboards that graced the walls of the two second floor classrooms in the 1889 Cedarville School. Sponsorship of the other five is available for \$4 a lineal inch. The sponsor gets the opportunity to have his name and up to twenty words on a small placque mounted on the blackboard. The cost of 31 inch board A is \$124. The

cost of 43 inch board B is \$172. The cost of 48 inch board G \$192. The cost of 34 inch board H \$136. And the cost of 36 inch board L is \$144. The location of these boards is indicated on the sketch below. Sponsorship of each board will be awarded to first person who contacts the historical society at 815-563-4485 or e-mail at bonniebade@comcast.net. It's a great way to help building restoration.



Cedarville and the Gas Station

(The following article, which has been edited was written eleven years ago by the late Clyde Kaiser, often thought of as Cedarville's first historian. It was found in a collection of Clyde's notes that are in the possession of his niece Mary Reed. The historical society thanks Mary for sharing this with us.)

The invention of the "horseless" carriage created a new era of marketing for Cedarville merchants.

Prior to 1910 there was very little demand for this new highly explosive fuel as the number of autos was negligible in most communities. Kerosene was the fuel in demand. It was used for lamps and heaters and cooking stoves.

Families could purchase their supply of kerosene from the horse drawn oil wagon that made its rounds to replenish the 20 or 30 gallon drums or one could take his kerosene can — with a potato impaled on the spot for a cork — to the John Bollman Grocery on Cherry Street for a filling. *(The store was later owned and operated first by Glen and Flossie Bear and later by Jessie and Marie Purdue.)*

The pump was within the store. An iron grating beneath the nozzle allowed spills or drippings to return to the buried tank. No one I talked with recalls kerosene being sold at the other two groceries in the village.

From 1910 to 1920 the demand for gasoline saw the installation of outdoor gas pumps with hoses that could supply gas directly to the car's tank. Cedarville's three groceries at that time — Bollman's Strohm's and Shippy's — installed pumps by the curbside.

Early pumps had a crank operation with one complete turning delivering a gallon.



Clyde Kaiser

Another turning delivered another gallon. The storekeeper did the pumping, kept track of the gallons and multiplied for the total price. The inconvenience of all this computation, plus occasional mistakes by the poor mathematician soon led to the posting of a price chart on the pump showing the cost for one, two etc. gal-

lons. Prices were in even cents with no gas tax. A price of 20 cents per gallon was considered high.

This type of pump was followed by a new type, officially called Vista-Pumps, in which the product was visible in a glass container at the top of the pump. Manually by a stick lever that moved forward and backward, the gas was pumped up into this glass container to the mark designating the number of gallons, ten being the limit. The nozzle was then inserted into the car's gas tank and the designated amount was drained for the customer. Price was determined by reading the chart.

Throughout the nation, the growing popularity of the auto caused the prominent gas companies to seek a better method of meeting customer need and we had the advent of the gas station. Standard Oil built its first gas station in the country in 1907. Cedarville did not get its first station until the 1920s

when Will Bender of Red Oak constructed a modern station with several pumps in the middle of a double driveway, a small stall for oil changes and minor garage work and rest rooms.

This building was located on the southeast corner of the intersection of what is now Illinois Route 26 and Cedarville-Lena Road. Today it is the site of a car wash. This station was run by Bender and his son Kenneth for some time and then later by Bender's son-in-law Perry Koppein and his son Keith Koppein.

The second station was constructed in 1933 at the northwest corner of the intersection of Oak and Illinois Route 26, presently the location of Barkau's used cars. Leonard and Mamie Wilson were the builders and operators. The building was of customary style for the period, double driveway, canopy over the inner drive, one stall service room and rest-rooms.

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The Cedarville gas station constructed by Will Bender of Red Oak and later operated by the Koppeins. A car wash owned by Dan Lobdell now occupies the space.

