

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE FEBRUARY 2012

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Society Lunch, Annual Meeting Feb. 5

The annual meeting of the Cedarville Area Historical Society and the society's traditional chili, soup and sandwich lunch will be held Sunday, February 5, 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 persons to three year terms on the board of directors, a financial report and information regarding future plans of the society. After a short meeting, members will go to the building's gym to join those assembled to enjoy the lunch which will run from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

As in past years, members of the Lena Live Wires 4H will sell homemade pies during the lunch. The proceeds will be used to pay for the activities of the organization. Only about a dozen pies will be available.

The historical society members who have been nominated to fill the three year terms are Narcissa Engle, Steve Myers and Diane Hagemann. All three are currently serving on the board.

Continuing board members are Sharon Barmore, Jim Bade, Carol Meyers, Diane Tepper, Dale Priewe and Galen Bertram.

At the annual meeting, a financial report prepared by Society Treasurer Galen Bertram will be available for members. It is expected to show that there are sufficient operation funds to start the new year. The 2012 budget will also be presented for approval. It is expected to be slightly more than \$11,000, which is almost the same as last year's.

The board will hold its organizational meeting in the Cedarville Museum on the evening of February 14 at which time officers will be elected from the board membership, progress on 2012 exhibits, programs and projects will be discussed and other business matters will be taken up.

History with Clyde Kaiser: Part Two

(Last month we presented the first part of the late Clyde Kaiser's 1995 comments on early merchandise stores in Cedarville. In his remarks he detailed the rise and fall of the Mill Street Richart and Benson businesses. This month he writes about the two businesses on Cherry Street. Jim Bade, president CAHS)

The J. D. Strohm meat and grocery store was opened in 1906 by J. D. Strohm and his wife. It was in a building on the northeast corner of Mill and Cherry streets that belonged to the heirs of John Wright. The structure housed part of the Henney Buggy Company before the firm moved to Freeport.

The store handled some groceries but its specialty was fresh meats. It also sold cold cuts, soft drinks and candies.

It was a popular meeting place and its pool tables and card table were busy six nights each week. Sandwiches were made — and it was said — the clerk was often admonished not to let his thumb rest too heavily on the scales when cutting the meat for the sandwich.

The large room above the store was used for dances, band practice and for lodge activities for the Modern Woodmen of America. This store also featured a gasoline pump.

The store finally closed sometime in the 1960s and Strohm's daughter Leila

DeZell made the upstairs and the pool room into apartments. The main store section was occupied by a video store when this was written (1995) — a great change from the early stores of a century earlier.

A fourth general store owned by John Bollman (*son of John Bollman Sr., Civil War soldier who was reportedly killed on the day his son was born*) made its debut early in the twentieth century at 30 West Cherry Street. It sold gasoline and kerosene. It also handled a larger selection of merchandise, especially groceries, than previously available in earlier stores.

Upon the death of Bollman and after a short operation by his son Ray, the store passed to Glenn and Flossie Bear who operated the store until their retirement. Ownership was then taken over by Jesse Perdue and his wife who operate the store at this time (1995).

A newcomer on the scene is the Mobil convenience store and gas station at the intersection of Highway 26 and the Cedarville-Lena Road. It takes its place among the many supermarkets with their tremendous inventories, pharmacies, delis and even banking services. This is a tremendous contrast to the store of a century and half ago.

Photos on next page



(Above) Ida and John Strohm in front of their store on the northeast corner of Mill and Cherry



(Above from left) Earl Wirth, Glen Bear, John Strohm, Ted Ulrich in front of Strohm's store; (Below) Early Bollman store on Cherry Street; once Jacob Henney buggy factory.



(Above) Linda Auman photo of Marie and Jesse Purdue in their store on Cherry Street. The couple purchased the store from Flossie and Glen Bear (below) who had bought the store from the John Bollman family. The building has now been remodeled for residential purposes.



Memories of Cedarville's Frank Lied

(Sometime between 1964 and 1978 Frank Lied (1900—1978) jotted down his early twentieth century memories of the village. Frank was the son of Daniel Lied (1858—1936) and Margaret Lied (ca.1864—1926)

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lied, lived at 30 W. Oak St., Cedarville, for a number of years. When I was a small boy, I delivered strawberries which we raised on the seven acres we owned at that corner to the home of Jane Addams. I remember that often Mrs. John Addams (*second wife*) would say they didn't want any, but Miss Mary Fry would say that I should come on in and then she'd say "we'll take some". I can remember playing hide and seek in the old mill where it originally stood with the other boys.

I remember going to the old Cedarville School (now the Cedarville Community Center) (*now museum*). Some of my teachers in those days were Miss Salima Rutter, Miss Edna Moses and Miss Helen Barber. We had very little paper at first and I used a slate. There were 11 in my class at that time, as I recall: 10 girls and myself. The girls were Ermina Phillips (Kaiser), Irene Kahly (Neberman), Jessie Law, Esther Kryder, Leila Strohm (DeZell), Ruth Fackler, Miriam Fackler, Goldie Pepperman (Schrack), Vida Solid and Frances Ernold.

In the winter we skated on the creek at noon and I remember that when we came back in school, we would leave our skates on so we were ready at recess.

I well remember Harry Rutter making ice cream for the John Bollman store (now Perdue's). He would do this east of the

building and a group of us kids would be waiting around to buy some.

A man named Bartholemew ran the creamery and I often would go after buttermilk for pancakes. When Roy Cromley worked there, he would make wooden skies for the children.

My father had only one horse and when we needed another to make a team we would borrow one from John Addams (*family: editor*). We used to drive horses to Freeport and often would see Lincoln (Link) Pfeiffer on the road. When our horse jogged, we would pass the walking Link, but when our horse walked, Link would pass us. He was known to be one of the fastest walking men of the area.

One of our games at school was "pump, pump, pullaway" and when Howard Epley was janitor, he would play with us. We thought this great fun. We almost always stopped at the old Richart store on the northwest corner of the street going to the school to look at the candy. This was run by Henry and Alma Richart and also by Grace, daughter of Henry. The post office was here also.

Another of our winter sports was hooking on to the bobsleds with our sleds. Turner Clingman was our favorite for this sport as he would allow us to "hook on" with our hands holding to the bob sled runner or frame while lying on our sleds. In turn some one behind us would hook on to us and sometimes there would be a whole line of sleds behind the pulling team and bobsled. Turner Clingman would tolerate us, but many of the other drivers would lick their horses to a speed where we could not hook on to the fast

moving bobsled.

In those days, we also had bus service from Cedarville to Red Oak for passengers and for delivery of the mail to and from the train at Red Oak. This was a covered wagon, or hack, with a row of benches, one on each side, with passengers facing each other. Oscar Fink operated this for many years.

We attended the Evangelical Church and I remember Billy Fehr there who would shout "Amen" when he agreed with the minister. My bother was janitor for the church and he would have to get up very early to get the wood fire going to get the church warm for service time.

At a later time, in the period shortly after 1915, Homer B. Ash (father of Mary Ash Mau) was issued a franchise to furnish electricity for the village. A generator run by a large stationary gasoline engine was installed in the old Globe Hall. The engine and generator were run by Nelson Staas and also for a time by Hiram Kryder. Electricity was available only when the engine was running, usually from 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. In later years the equipment was sold to Illinois Northern Utilities.

Later our family moved to Red Oak and later to a farm just west of Richland Creek on the Cedarville-Lena Road. There my wife and I farmed, but in 1933 I began operating a feed mill on the corner where the Reed Service Station now stands. I ground feed for farmers, mixed grains, added supplements and soon the business was known as Lied's Feeds. One feed sold was Lied's All Round Mash. Among the men who worked with me were Charles Kryder, Logan Kahly, Charles Hiresbrunner and Clare Miller.

In 1937 we moved our location to the south end of Cedarville. In 1946 my son-in-law joined me in the business, which continued until 1964, when we closed. (*Building demolished in 2011.*)

While in the feed business, I also began dealing in sectional or pre-fabricated homes, corn cribs, grain bins and sheds. These were among the first "ready-cuts" and my buildings came from Economy Portable Housing Co. of West Chicago. Cyrus Kryder and Henry Sills, as well as several others from Cedarville, helped assemble the ready-cuts. Also, in 1948, I began handling travel trailers which developed rapidly as trailers became popular.

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

Also on Facebook

Jim Bade, President
Narcissa Engle, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Sharon Barmore, Secretary
Dale Priewe, Director
Steve Myers, Director
Carol Meyers, Director
Diane Hagemann, Director
Diane Tepper, 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 503 (c) (3).



New Exhibits Highlight 2 Area Churches

When the Cedarville Museum opens the 2012 season in May, visitors will find new exhibits with the history of the Red Oak Methodist Church (*above*) and the Richland Free Methodist Church (*below*), rural churches west of Cedarville. We thank their church members for their help.



Extra Thoughts Of the President

*By Jim Bade
President CAHS*

Each month after I have finished the last page of the historical society newsletter I discover notes about several items that scream to be mentioned if only in the form of a paragraph or two. This month I deliberately saved space for them.

Happy birthday to historical society member **Karl Erickson** who turns 101 on February 4. Karl, a former Cedarville resident who attended Cedarville's two year high school in the middle 1920s, now lives in Freeport. Best wishes, good friend!

I visited several weeks ago with **Mr. and Mrs. Jack Parriott** of Freeport. I want to thank them for giving the society copies of two of **Roger Hill's** books containing his sketches of old homes and buildings in Stephenson County, many of which no longer exist. They also gave me two copies of a 1910 poster advertising the auction of farm items belonging to **Henry Henke**, father of **John Henke**, legendary owner of the legendary former Blue Room tavern in Scioto Mills.

The historical society needs volunteers. So, please, when **Narcissa Engle** asks you to be a host or hostess at the museum this summer, jump at the opportunity as you have in the past. Last year two



Karl Erickson a year ago on his one hundredth birthday.

dozen CAHS members greeted visitors to the museum on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from May through October. If research and discovery is your thing, the society is looking for someone to tackle the challenge of learning more about and cataloging the society's 100 plus collection of old pressing irons.

There's a new look on the grounds of the museum. The very, very old and tall maple tree at the south end of the property has been removed because its health was becoming a safety problem that could no longer be ignored. CAHS recognized this problem five years ago and planted two different maple trees nearby.



Century-Old Sunday Dress of Dakota Girl Donated to Society

The century-old Sunday dress of a Dakota girl who died at the age of 19 in 1917 was donated this month to the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

The finely crafted cotton dress of Blanche Luella Bowers, who lived on a Dakota-area farm her entire short life, was transferred to Cedarville from the Peoria Historical Society where it was first received from a family descendant.

Blanche, who died of pneumonia complicated by other medical problems, was the only daughter of Frank and Mary Bowers. Current related descendants in the Dakota area being sought by the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

The 54 inch long cotton dress of Blanche Luella Bowers closes at the back through the use of small metal hooks.

This close view of the top part of the dress illustrates the fine design which is repeated on the collar and sleeves.

