

Society Annual Meeting, Lunch Feb. 3

The Cedarville Area Historical Society annual meeting and the society's traditional chili/soup/sandwich lunch will be Sunday, February 3, starting at 11 a.m. in the Jane Addams Community Center on W. Washington Street in the village.

The annual meeting in a former classroom of the building will include board elections and reports by Jim Bade, society president, and Galen Bertram, society treasurer. Lunch tickets at the door are \$5 for adults. \$2 for children under 12.

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE JANUARY 2013

Cedarville Area Historical Society



CAHS Patron Karl Erickson, 101, Dies

Karl Erickson, one of the strongest supporters of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, died December 13 at the age of 101. At the time of his death, he was the society's second oldest member.

Earlier this year he contributed \$20,000 toward the \$36,000 needed for the recent installation of the museum's elevator.



Karl visited the museum in June 2012.

At the time of the gift, Karl asked that his name not be linked to the contribution until after his death. Before the elevator funds, he had made several other large financial gifts to the society.

Karl was a student in 1926 at Cedarville's two year high school before graduating from Dakota High School.

He was born in 1911 in Cedarville and spent most of his life on the farm originally owned by his parents, Edward and Blanche. He moved to Freeport in 1997.

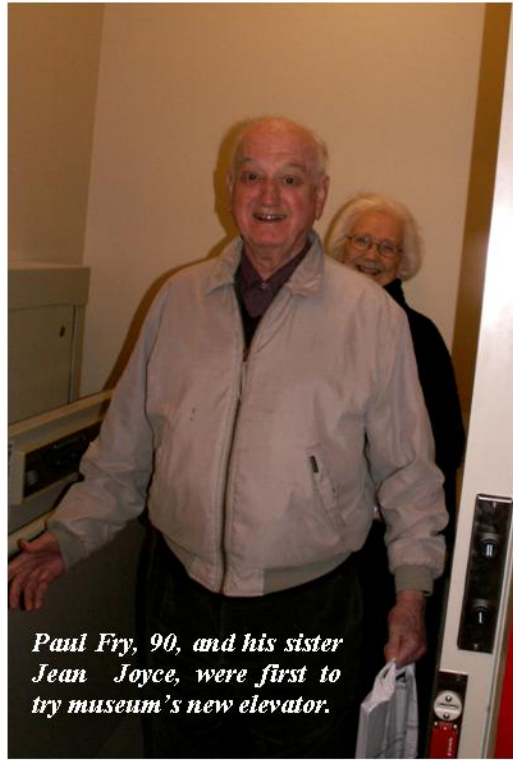
Karl's wife of 62 years, the former Arlene Miller, died in 1990. The couple had no children. He is survived by numerous nephews and nieces, great nephews and nieces, in-laws and his special friend and companion Lois Marcum.

Karl was one of three who started the Cedarville Volunteer Fire Department.

Burial was in Cedarville Cemetery.



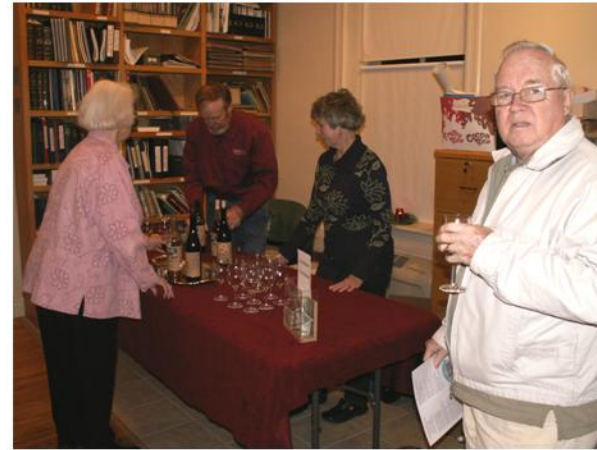
Left: Guest vocalist Cecelie Eiler and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Eiler, Freeport. Below: Mr. and Mrs. Galen Bertram eye sweet things displayed by Carol Meyers. Galen and Mrs. Meyers are CAHS board members.



Paul Fry, 90, and his sister Jean Joyce, were first to try museum's new elevator.



Left: Roger Goodspeed and Diane Tepper discuss Roger's Cedarville history mural behind him. Diane is a member of the CAHS board. Right: All kinds of delicious foods graced this eight foot table in the museum's LeRoy Wilson Theater.



A glass of complimentary wine was served by Ken and Pam Rosmann owners of Cedarville's Famous Fossil Winery.



Above: Almost 100 members of the public and the historical society enjoyed the holiday sing-along led by Virgil Kriens at the keyboard.



It was a return vocal engagement for Cecelie Eiler, Freeport student.



Narcissa Engle, CAHS vice president, serves Harlan Corrie. Narcissa was responsible for making sure there was enough food available.

Almost 100 Attend Christmas Songfest

Virgil Kriens, well-known Freeport pianist, made his first appearance at the CAHS Christmas sing-along.



Peggy Concludes Her Memories of Cedarville

(This is the fourth and final episode of Peggy Schoonhoven's memories of her life in Cedarville during the 1930s, 40s and 50s. She now lives in Freeport. Because some of her historic references might be unknown to younger readers, the editor reserves the right to insert italicized explanations.)

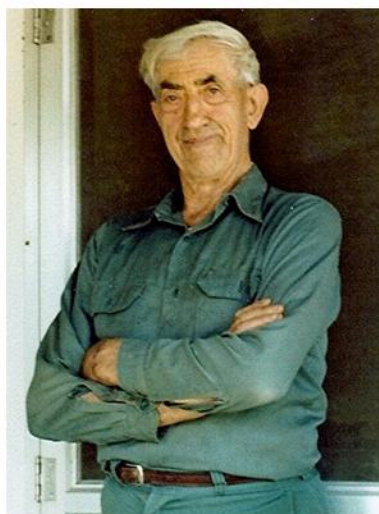
While living in Cedarville, my husband, Harold, and I became involved with the Cedarville Players, the local theatrical group. Harold did some props, handled tickets and baby sat for the boys during my six week rehearsals. Grandma Bear also helped with baby sitting, tickets, advertising, etc.

The plays were held in the Community House (the former Reformed Church on Cedar Street, later torn down, now a parking lot), the center of life in the village. I even had a 25th surprise birthday party for Harold there. I presented him with a ruby ring that he wore for dress-up his entire life. I still have that ring in its original mounting. I must have invited the whole village because there was a big crowd. He always thought I could never surprise him, but I did and everyone kept my secret.

The plays were hard work and a learning experience for me. It was also a good way to become better acquainted with Cedarville people. From 1948 until 1953 I was in seven plays and directed one.

My favorite play was "Bolts & Nuts". I played Prunella Figg and Chris Bertram was Phineas Plunkett. We were so into our characters we even practiced our lines together during the week in addition to the six weeks of rehearsals.

When my mother was in a local nursing home many years ago, I walked into the lobby of the home and saw Chris Bertram sitting in a wheelchair. I walked over to him and said, "Do you remember me?" He looked up, smiled and replied, "Miss Figg I presume." That will be etched in my memory forever.



Chris Bertram in 1978. In the 1950s he was custodian and bus driver for Cedarville School and played Phineas Plunkett to Peggy Schoonhoven's Prunella Figg in "Bolts and Nuts".

We were on the move again. No one moved as often as we did! Harold and I sold our home on Harrison and built another Pollman ranch on Washington. We lived there when both boys had polio, just two weeks apart, in 1952. We were building a house in Freeport to be close to Harold's work.

Denny, who was five, was the first to be diagnosed, then Terry, who was seven. Many of Denny's muscles were affected and he lost the use of his left arm and hand which caused upper body and back problems.

He had hoped to be a mechanic someday. When that was not possible, he learned to be a service advisor and worked for Mercedes Benz 27 years in San Diego, Ca. In mid-life he began suffering with post polio syndrome and vital organs began shutting down. He died at 63.

Before his 2003 retirement, he received the "Service Advisor of the Year" award, a tremendous accomplishment for a handicapped person.

Two weeks after Denny was diagnosed Terry went into the hospital. Even before Denny was home, Terry's muscle damage was less severe, but over the

years he developed back problems and his leg muscles were weak. After college he moved to Los Angeles and became a well-known artist and muralist with 41 murals in seven states. He had just begun doing ceramic tile murals when skin cancer claimed his life at age 56.

His largest mural was at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. It measured 12 feet high and 71 feet long. It was done on canvas and hung in the Harvey Morse Auditorium. An artist proof of this mural can be seen at Freeport Memorial Hospital. Much of his work can be viewed on a computer by accessing his name.

His obituary, calling him a premier American muralist, appeared on the front page of the Los Angeles Times. Harold and I were very proud of what two little boys, originally from Cedarville, accomplished in their short lifetimes.

When we pulled up roots permanently, it was not easy. I had to remind myself that Cedarville would not be far away. I am thankful for the memories I have. In my 38 years of real estate, I sold homes in Cedarville and in several of the small surrounding villages. Their history is worth being preserved.

When I heard my old school was going to be restored, I knew I might be interested and somewhat involved. At my age my stamina is limited, but it's a real joy to be reliving my "growing up" years by writing my memories of Cedarville. I will always be thankful God placed me there. After all, that is where I learned many important things about life. That is where I started my walk with God and still do. That is where my husband first saw me and that is where we were married and started our family.

I went from childhood to womanhood in Cedarville, taught Sunday school, sang in the choir and formed lasting friendships. And yes, I am still in touch with Bib (classmate William Wolfe) and his wife, Fran, in Texas. I now realize what a safe, secure and happy childhood I had in that little village.

I believe I could write a book about some of the interesting people that I remember such as Henry Taft who drove his horse and wagon to the store with a spotted black and white dog on the seat beside him. He loved to march in the Memorial Day parade and wear his World War I uniform.

Also, I remember the lady with the purple hair whose name I don't recall, but she lived on Mill Street. She drove a model T Ford and always cut the corners too short and would run up over the curb and down.

There are many more, but I have written too much already. (See more related photos on next page.)



Henry Taft (1887—1966) and his dog in photo probably taken in 1940s when he worked on Dr. Conn's Cedarville Arabian horse farm.



Peggy Ann Miller Schoonhoven in recent photo



Left: Flossie and Glen Bear outside their Cherry Street store. Center: Ted Wootan and Mary Lou Bear, Peggy's sister, at high school prom. The couple married in 1955 and had four children. She died at the age of 49. Right: Peggy Ann Miller as Cedarville School student.



Left the first family: Russell Miller, Flossie Zweifel Miller holding Peggy Ann Miller and Robert Miller



The second family: Glen Bear, Flossie Miller Bear holding Mary Lou Bear and Peggy Ann Miller



Peggy's brother, Robert Miller



Evangelical Church, scene of December 5, 1943, wedding of Peggy Ann Miller and Harold Schoonhoven

Our Thanks to the Society's 148 Members

The membership of the Cedarville Area Historical Society now stands at 148, an increase of three from last year despite the deaths of three longtime members. It is estimated the membership actually represents more than 325 persons since most of the memberships are for families.

The membership of the society has remained remarkably stable over the past several years, unlike many other non-profit organizations that have suffered from the economic downturn. It is also notable that membership 2012 year end contributions have already exceeded last year's \$2,970 by several hundred dollars as of December 31.

Historical society members live in 24 states. Most from outside the immediate area are former residents. One member is from France.

Seventy two members have Cedarville or Freeport addresses. They are: Wendell and Judith Kurr, Merle and Ladona Wardlow, Ken and Pam Rosmann, Dan and Bobbie Edler, Mr. and Mrs. Don Heilman, Dan and Peggy Dixon, Bill and Ann Tully, Jean Joyce, Bruce and Kathy Helm, Galen and Carole Bertram, Gary and Diane Hagemann, Betty Kraft-Hartman and Patrick Hartman, Norman and Janet Kaiser, Dottie Emo, Judy and Larry Murphy, Ramona Kryder, Dave and Charlotte Kaiser, the Dale Prieue family, Karl and Betty Trester, Dan and Diana Nye, Ruth Wardlow, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Hutchison, Len and Gwen Cummins, Bev and Pete Haselhorst, Sue Miller, Gene, Mary and John Reed and Theresa Morris.

Also Duane and Ruth Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Huber, Marge and Everett Lyons, Narcissa Engle, Lorraine Stabenow, Richard and Althea Hornung, Roger and Jane Goodspeed, Patricia Bienlien, Art and Janice Leverington, Jim and Sharon Barmore, Ruth Schwartz, Rex and Kathryn Sides, Bill and Shirley Pick, Carol Woodley and Marjorie Phillips.

Also Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rutter, Dennis and Carol

Meyers, Peggy Schoonhoven, Delbert and Hulone Scheider, Diane Tepper, Marian Franzen, Glen and Bernice Dietmeier, Dr. Rose Binns, Karl Erickson, Don and Vicki Franz, Neal Scheider, Harlan and Judy Corrie and Paul Fry.

Also Bill and Ann Samuelson, Marsha Cox, Rick and Diane Kahly, Dr. and Mrs. Edward Maglietta, Bill and Dee Blomberg, Jim and Bonnie Bade, Rachael Wise, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Capes, Miriam and Bob Schlueter, Mr. and Mrs. John Holman, Moira Knowlton, Steve and Kathleen Glaze, Jacqueline Steward and Norman and Shirley Wagner.

Twenty seven members live in other Illinois cities. They are: George Tillett, Mr. and Mrs. R. McIntyre, Nevin and Arlene Kryder, the Jeff Kurtz family, Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Dammann, Dave and Karen Macomber, Scott Meinert, Todd Pfister, Karen Miller, Ron Stabenow, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Angle, Virginia Hough, Priscilla Apfelmach, Dorothy Dornink and Aden Clump.

Also Mary Jo Hoag, Sue and Steve Myers, Wendy and Hal Gilpin, Brad and Rebecca Smith, Geoff Cox, Greg and Betsy Gilpin, Michael Phillips, Lisa and Pat Goodwin, Medina and Herbert Gross, Sally Anderson, Jim and Gina Cole and Donna Daugherty.

One third of the society's membership is from states other than Illinois.

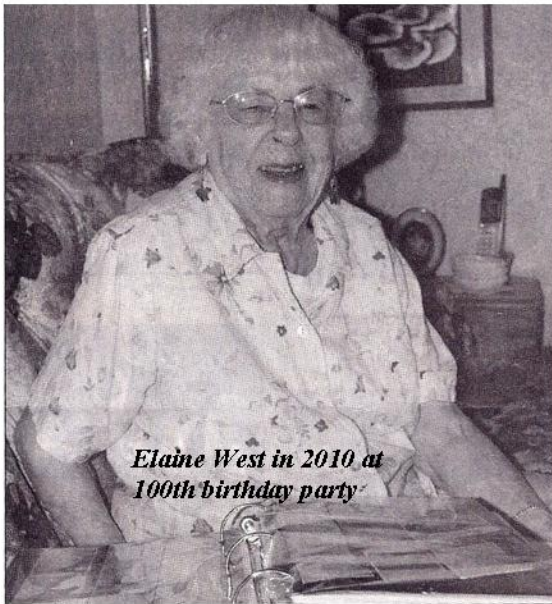
Wisconsin: Gene Brander family, Paula Charron, Steve and Shirley Kryder, Curt and Kathleen Wilson, Gwen Beirmeister, Rick Noble, Todd Cronau, Irene Ilgen, Carolyn Lamia, V. Mark Lotta and Joe von Allmen.

Texas: Mr. and Mrs. Mike Nichols, Joan Potter, W.W. Wolfe

Iowa: Mark Smith, Tom and Charlene Gaard.

Florida: Dick and Judy Wolfe, Nelson Ottenhausen, Elwood Wardlow, Ken and Marcet Bliss,

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*Elaine West in 2010 at
100th birthday party*

Elaine West, 102, Dies; Oldest Society Member

Ellen Elaine Whipple West, 102, oldest member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, died in Tucson, Az., Dec. 21, one week after the death of Freeport's Karl Erickson, 101, the second oldest member.

Mrs. West, whose permanent home was in Mt. Vernon, Iowa, in 1941 married Stephen West, great grandson of Abner Briggs Clingman, one of the original 1840 settlers of the Cedarville area. Mr. West died in 1998 at the age of 84. Mrs. West was very proud of her relationship to an early Cedarville settler.

She is survived by daughters Susan and Sandy, a brother Blaine, a sister Mary Ann McPherson and numerous nieces and nephews.

Three hundred persons from 14 states attended her 100th birthday celebration in Mt. Vernon. She and her husband traveled extensively, especially to the Far East. Her formula for living to be 100: "I forgot to die. Keep busy and have fun."

Historical Society Membership

(From page 7)

N. Carolina: Mary L. Bryan

S. Carolina: Bruce Mizell

Nevada: Chris and Priscilla Bender

New York: Rebecca Wardlow-Welch

Pennsylvania: Harvey Ilgen, Linda Thom
Thompson, John Kryder

Washington: Sharon and Rein Neem

Arizona: Gene Ramsdell, Mr. and Mrs. Don Morris, Donna and Ray Kerr

Georgia: Doug and Martha Martin

Oregon: Shirley Woodward, Mrs. Ben Confer

Minnesota: Mr. and Mrs. Alan Youel

Michigan: Bob Bear

Indiana: Dale and Iliana Kaiser

Missouri: Bruce and Christine Baldwin

Mississippi: Shirley Amodeo

Ohio: Mr. and Mrs. Max Hazen, Helen Dunn

Tennessee: Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Bokemeier

Kansas: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Alley

Colorado: Kathy Addams McKee

California: Lucy Carver, Sarah McNeil

France: Stephen Phillips

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Also on Facebook

Jim Bade, president

Narcissa Engle, Vice President

Galen Bertram, Treasurer

Sharon Barmore, Secretary

Steve Myers, director

Dale Priewe, director

Carol Meyers, director

Diane Hagemann, director

Diane Tepper, 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)