

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

JULY 2015

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Castillo Sings South of Border July 14



Mexican guitarist and vocalist Antonio Castillo will perform Tuesday evening, July 14, at the Cedarville Museum. This will be the museum's last live music presentation of the current season.

Admission to the 7:30 p.m. program is \$7 for those who have not previously purchased a ticket.

Castillo, who periodically appears at the Amigos restaurant, in Freeport is known for his strong baritone voice and his interpretations of familiar Hispanic songs.

Free refreshments will be served after the program.

For those who are physically handicapped the museum has a one button elevator to the second floor where the program will be presented.

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Historical Society Partners with School

By Jim Bade
CAHS President

Education critics who ask for more innovative teaching in the public school system might find an excellent example of what they seek in the classroom of Patricia Ballard, first grade teacher in Harper School, Wilmette II.

This spring, Ms. Ballard wanted her 21 students to learn more about Cedarville's Jane Addams. Included in her teaching technique: Discuss Jane Addams in the classroom and then ask each student to write to a descendant of Miss Addams and ask questions about the famous lady.

The teacher's search for descendants reached me at the Cedarville Area Historical Society where she learned — of course — that Miss Addams never mar-

ried and never had children. I suggested that the society had two members who might satisfy Miss Ballard's requirements. They are Marcet Bliss, granddaughter of Miss Addams' favorite niece, also named Marcet, and Paul Fry, Addams family authority and last surviving pallbearer at the Jane Addams 1935 funeral.

Mrs. Bliss, Leesburg, Fl., and Paul, 92, Cedarville, delightedly accepted the challenge to answer the children's questions and within a week Marcet received eleven letters and Paul, ten.

After studying her share of the children's questions, Mrs. Bliss decided to answer them with individual notes that she would mail. Paul said because many of the questions were similar, he would answer them in groups. He also con-

fessed that because his handwriting at age 92 was not what it used to be, he would type his answers and send them by e-mail.

Following are examples of the letters Mrs. Bliss and Mr. Fry received and their responses.

Dear Ms. Bliss,

I am in first grade at Harper School in Wilmette II. I have learned about how loving Jane Addams was. She noticed that children were working in dangerous conditions and she fought for child labor laws. You're lucky to be related to Jane Addams. Sincerely, Anchal

Dear Anchal,

Yes, child labor laws were important to Jane Addams. In those days children worked 12 hours a day in dangerous conditions in mills and in factories. Children could be injured or killed and they could not go to school so they could not get good jobs. Child labor laws were needed to change all of that. I hope you will work hard at school and that you will help others whenever you can! Sincerely, Marcet

Dear Ms. Bliss,

I am in first grade at Harper School in Wilmette, IL. I have learned about how brave Jane Addams was. She helped to change laws so that they were fair. Sincerely, Hope



Marcet Bliss

Dear Hope,

Thank you for your letter! Yes! She was brave! Being for peace when a war was coming was not popular, but later she received the Nobel Peace Prize. It was brave to be for peace. I hope you, too, will work for what is right, even when everyone does not agree with you! Sincerely, Marcet

Dear Ms. Bliss,

I am in first grade at Harper School in Wilmette, IL. I have learned about how caring Jane Addams was. She wanted people to be comforted with the joy of music and art. I wish that Jane Addams was still alive. Sincerely, William

Dear William,

*What a nice thought! Art and music are important to enrich our lives! Providing
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(From page 3)

food and clothes to poor people does not touch the soul and gladden the heart as music and the arts do. I hope that you, like Jane Addams, will have an opportunity to be artistically creative and enrich people's lives. Sincerely, Marcet

Dear Ms. Bliss,

I am in first grade at Harper School in Wilmette, IL. I have learned how peaceful Jane Addams was. She took good care of little poor children. She was very nice to start Hull-House. Sincerely, Sophia

Dear Sophia,

Yes, Jane Addams cared about poor children. She did not have any children of her own so other children became her family. She had health problems, a bad back, and she was a little lame girl and could not run and play with other children. Instead of being sad and lonely, she made friends with the people she helped. I hope that you will help others and have care and concern for poor children throughout your life. Sincerely, Marcet

Before answering his ten letters, Paul Fry explained in his e-mail that he was not directly related to Jane Addams. However, he felt somewhat related because he learned many things about the Addams family from his Aunt Mary who lived with the Addams family from early



Paul Fry

childhood until she died. Paul added that his Aunt Mary, Jane and Jane's step-mother had at least one thing in common — they all lost a mother when they were very young.

Some of Paul's comments:

Carter, Blake, Emmet and Sophie mentioned how intelligent Jane Addams was in observing what people needed and finding ways to meet the needs. We must remember that one of her most intelligent moves was to establish the Hull Residents. Residents were very intelligent, educated persons who volunteered to help in running Hull-House, but these very capable people formed what we might call a "Think tank" today. They discussed various problems of immigrants and other social problems and

to work on the problem. For example: Florence Kelly marched right into the factories and confronted the owners who were forcing their workers to work in dangerous conditions. Jane Addams had a lot of help in achieving what she did.

Paul continued:

Sal, you mentioned that Miss Addams was courageous and that she founded the NAACP. She was the only non-Black person who joined these Negro leaders in this. We can only imagine where she would still be, if living now, on these issues.

Libby, you mentioned how much she did in spite of health problems. It started early. Before she was five years old she contracted a form of tuberculosis that caused her to have a spinal curvature which was painful as well as deforming. She called herself an "Ugly Duckling" who didn't want to walk with her handsome father to church, not to embarrass him, until he gallantly bowed and took off his hat to her on a busy street. In her early twenties, her brother-in-law, Dr. Haldeman, performed surgery and placed her in a cast for months, which cured her curvature. All through life many illnesses slowed but never stopped her work.

Alan you mentioned her starting the first public playground. It pained her to see how few opportunities city children had to experience what she enjoyed as a child. It was the chance to roam through

woods and enjoy Nature. When she was eight years old, her father remarried and her step-mother brought her son George, a year younger than Jane. He had great imagination and helped her to learn to play. Her early life had made her a very serious little girl and with George she explored the countryside and made up games. She saw city children deprived of this. The greatest benefactor of Hull-House was Mrs. Joseph Bowen. After the death of Mr. Bowen, she purchased a 72 acre property in Waukegan and named it the Joseph T. Bowen Country Club where children could take turns experiencing nature in the countryside.

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Patricia Ballard

Paul concluded:

Many of you said you wished you would have known her. In a way you are learning to know her, not in person, but in a most important way you know her through her ideas. If I have mentioned anything that brings other questions or ideas to mind, I would love to hear from you again. I wish you a wonderful rest of the school year and a fine vacation this summer. Remember: We all continue to study and learn all through life.

Your friend, Paul Fry

Not content with answering the children's letters, Marcet Bliss put together a collection of Addams family photographs and sent them to the Harper School teacher, suggesting she use them as another classroom teaching tool. The historical society added six publications on Jane Addams produced by the society.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1317

Cedarville Area Historical Society:

Congratulations! I wanted to congratulate you and your staff for coordinating the Jane Addams Project with the first graders at Harper School. I am pleased to hear that organizations like yours still educate youth on the importance of local history; furthermore, it demonstrates your organization's commitment to help the community youth grow and mature.

Your organization is for sure a shining example of how effective education can build up. Thank you again for your dedication to your community and preserving our local history.

Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress



Richard Noble
(1928—2014)

Just before press time, the editor received this important message from Rick Noble, a CAHS member living in Oregon, Wi.

"Anyone who knew my dad Richard Noble knows he'd find any excuse to get out of town and drive the back roads on a lazy summer afternoon. Please take the short drive to the Cedarville Area Historical Society Museum on Saturday, July 18, from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. and join us in a small celebration of his life."

Dick Noble, a Korean War veteran, was known in the Freeport-Cedarville area as an outstanding auto mechanic. Many Cedarville students of the 1960s will remember him as their school bus driver.

Edler-Waelti CD, DVD Recordings Available

The Cedarville Museum May 12 evening program featuring accordionists Bobbie Edler and John Waelti is now available on a CD or DVD.

A copy of either disc costs \$10 plus \$2 for mailing. Address your check to the Cedarville Area Historical Society, P. O. Box 336, Cedarville, Il. 61013.

CDs or DVDs of any program presented at the museum over the past eleven years are available. Call Jim Bade 815-563-4485 for the list.

Cedarville Area Historical Society
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Also on Facebook

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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).





And the band played on

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with music,
people and ap-
plause at June
16 performance**

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Pick found a spot*



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