

# ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

MARCH 2011

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## The Free Friday Pic Picks for 2011

Nine classic movies from the 1930s through the early 1960s are the early selections for the 2011 Cedarville Museum's **Free Friday Night Outdoor Movie Festival** to be held during June and July.

Steve Myers, historical society board member and chairman of the event (*along with his wife, Sue*), emphasized that title changes could be made.

With individual Friday night playing dates to be set, the movies are:

"The Long, Long Trailer" (1954) with Lucille Ball and Dezi Arnez.

"Brigadoon" (1954) with Gene Kelly.

"Swiss Family Robinson" (1960) with John Mills and Dorothy McGuire.

"Life with Father" (1947) with William Powell and Irene Dunn.

"Widows Gap" with Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.

"Those Men and Their Magnificent Flying Machines"

"The Bride Goes Wild" (1948) with June Allyson and John Albright

"Mr. Blanding Builds His Dream House" (1948) with Cary Grant and Myrna Loy.

"The Inspector General" (1949) with Danny Kaye.

The movies are presented at dusk (8:30) on the grounds of the museum with a large screen attached to the north brick wall. In the event of inclement weather, the show will move inside to the museum's new second floor theater and program room.

The audience is requested to bring lawn chairs. Bugs rarely visit the breezy hilltop, but insect control is used.

Fresh pop corn, candy, soft drinks and coffee are available for 50 cents at intermission and throughout the movie.

## The Gasoline Pump and Cedarville

*(Twenty years ago the late Clyde Kaiser, considered by many to be the Cedarville historian of his time, wrote a series of brief articles touching on various aspects of the local scene as he remembered them from his long lifetime. Following is the first of two parts of his memories of the coming of gas stations to the village.)*

The invention of the "horseless" carriage created a new era of marketing for Cedarville merchants and provides an interesting story of the gasoline stations of Cedarville.

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 because it was used for lamps, 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 spout for a cork, to the John Bollman grocery on Cherry Street (*Later Bear's, then Purdue's store, now a residence*) for a filling. The pump was within the store. An iron grating beneath the nozzle allowed spills or drippings to return to the buried tank. No one recalls kerosene being sold at the other two groceries in the village.

From 1910 to 1920 the demand for gaso-

line saw the installation of outdoor gas pumps with hoses that could supply gas directly to the car's tank. The three groceries — Bollman's, Strohm's and Shippy's installed pumps by the curbside. Early pumps had a crank operation: One complete turning delivering a gallon, then a repeat by returning to the starting position for the next gallon. The storekeeper did the pumping, kept track



*Gas pump in 1920s in front of Luther Shippy's general store on northwest corner of Mill and Second streets. Once Richart's store, the building burned down several years after this photo and was replaced by a residence.*

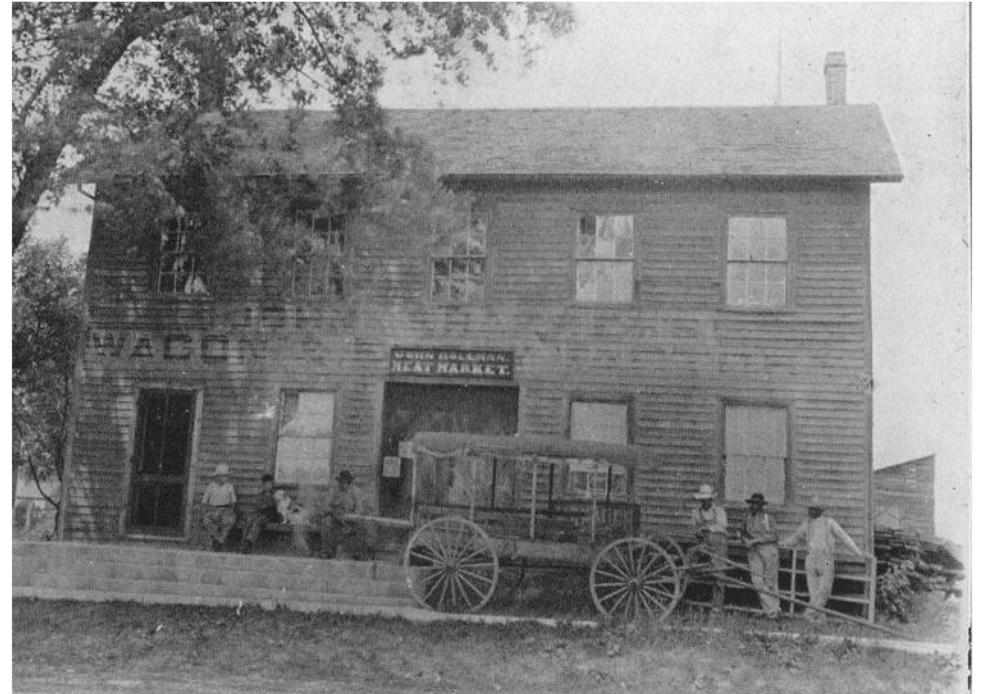
of the gallons and multiplied for the total price. The inconvenience of all this computation, plus occasional mistakes by a poor mathematician, soon led to the posting of a price chart on the pump showing the cost for one, two, etc. gallons. Prices were in even cents with no gas tax. A price of 20 cents per gallon was considered high.

This type of pump was followed by a new type, officially called Vista-Pumps, in which the liquid was visible in a glass

container at the top of the pump installation.

By a manual stick lever which 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. The price was determined by reading the chart.

*(Turn to page 6)*



*John Bollman's store on East Cherry Street prior to 1910. The building originally housed the Jacob Henney wagon works, the second half nineteenth century forerunner of the highly successful firm run by John Henney, Jacob's son.*



*Wendy and Hal Gilpin were kept busy preparing sandwiches*



*Above: Church was over, the food was ready and the guests arrived. Dining scene as seen from the kitchen serving window. Below: Daniel Myers and his sister Emily managed a food break between welcoming guests at the Community Center gymnasium door.*



*Above, from left: Guests Duane Smith, Sue Miller, Hulone and Delbert Scheider, Paul Fry. Below, from left: Thomas, Sarah and James Priewe, Lena Live Wires 4H, sold home made pies (and ate) with gusto.*



*Rick Sides tells Mary Reed to pour in that soup.*

## Early Snow Loses to Lunch

Despite an unexpected early and heavy snowfall, the Cedarville Area Historical Society annual meeting and soup, sandwich and chili lunch drew a hardy crowd with hearty appetites. The event, which has been held for ten years in the Community Center right after church services on football's Super Bowl Sunday, featured three kinds of homemade soup, Mary Reed's famous chili, sandwiches with local cheese and more than 200 servings of desserts to die for. All for five dollars!!



*Judy Corrie asks Jim Barmore for his choice. Ruth Smith looks on.*



*Desserts that can't be beat.*



*Carol Meyers (left) and Sharon Barmore, historical society board members, had time for a cup of coffee.*



*Narcissa Engle, CAHS board, shared table with son-in-law Bob Schlueter and his wife and friend Nancy Thompson.*

## The Gasoline Pump in Cedarville

*(from page 3)*

Throughout the nation, the growing popularity of the auto caused the prominent gas companies to seek a better method of meeting the need of customers 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 (*Stephenson Street*) and Cedarville Road (*Washington Street*). *(This is now the site of the car wash.)*

This station was run by Bender and his son Kenneth for some time. Later it was operated by Bender's son-in-law Perry Koppein and his son Keith Koppein.

*(Continued in the April issue)*



*First modern gas station in Cedarville was built in the 1920s by Will Bender of Red Oak. It was later operated by Perry Koppein and son. It is now the site of a car wash.*

## Local Books Available from Society

Several excellent books related to Cedarville history are available at reasonable prices from the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Among them are:

“Generous Spirit” by Cedarville’s Paul Fry. It’s the story of his Aunt Mary Fry who was adopted by the Jane Addams family at age 11. \$19.

“Jane Addams Early Influences” by the late Ron Beam, Cedarville. Jane’s 18 years growing up in Cedarville \$12.

LeRoy Wilson’s memories of 1930s life in Cedarville. Volume I and II each \$9.

History of Illinois 46th Infantry Regiment in Civil War. Half of 2,000 members were from Stephenson County. \$16

*As promised in last month’s newsletter, we opened the double east door of the Cedarville Museum — formerly the village school — and we really did ring the school bell at 9 a.m. Friday, February 4, to celebrate the 100th birthday of Karl Erickson, Cedarville native now living in Freeport, and to call him to attend classes. Although he was warned in advance, Karl did not show up and therefore was marked tardy and then absent for the day. Additional homework will be assigned and he will be required to write “I have been a bad boy” one hundred times on one of the blackboards. That will teach him to show up next year on his 101st birthday.*



## Oops! February's Story Had a Very Small Error

In the story of the gift of the Anna Sills Bible, we said Henry Sills was Anna's brother. Not true. Henry was Anna's nephew. Sorry.

Anna (1848—1941), who never married, was the daughter of Jacob and Catherine Sills and lived all her life in the same house on Stephenson Street.. Henry (1876—1968) was the son of Sam Sills, Anna's brother. He lived in various Cedarville locations and in Kansas.

### **Cedarville Area Historical Society**

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**Also on Facebook**

*Jim Bade, President*

*Narcissa Engle, Vice President*

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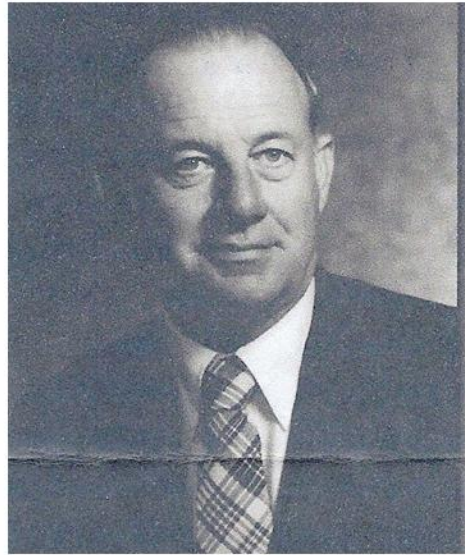
*Ruth Smith, Director*

*Dale Prieve, Director*

*Steve Myers, Director*

*Carol Meyers, 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).*



*Dr. Henry William Apfelbach*

## **Dr. Henry Apfelbach, Society Member, Dies**

Dr. Henry W. Apfelbach, Lake Forest, Il., died January 1 at the age of 89. He was graduated from Harvard Medical School in 1946. After duty in the navy medical corps, he spent his entire adult life in orthopedic medical practice.

His survivors include his wife, the former Priscilla Falley, 4 children, 4 stepchildren, a brother and 19 grandchildren and great-grandchildren. The deceased and his wife, although never Cedarville residents, had a strong interest in village history because Priscilla's mother was a niece to Rev. John Dickson, Cedarville Methodist minister in the early 1920s, and his wife Nellie Clingman Dickson.