

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

MARCH 2014

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Society Sets 2014 Programs, Events

The 2014 season of the Cedarville Area Historical Society and Museum will be bigger and better than anything in the past.

That's the prediction of Jim Bade, president of the society.

"The board has scheduled seven evening programs, two new exhibits, two daytime special events and the popular free Friday night movies in June and July," he said. That's more activity for historical society members and the public than has ever been offered, he added.

In addition the museum, the research center and the library, staffed by volunteers, will maintain its past Saturday and Sunday, May through October hours.

*Tickets for the seven
evening programs
are available
on page 5*

"In both 2012 and 2013, the society sponsored three evenings of live performances of American music and its history. Each program was sold out. This year we will offer four evenings of hard core history and three evenings of live music of a special nature," Bade said.

All museum evening programs are on a Tuesday and start at 7:30. The four history talks will be in the second floor LeRoy Wilson Theater which can be reached by stairs or the one button elevator installed two years ago at a cost of \$36,000. The three music programs with seating limited to 40 persons will be in the first floor south room.

Tickets for the seven nights can be ordered by completing the order form in this newsletter or by calling Bade at 815-563-4485. Individual or a series ticket is available for the history programs. Only a series ticket can be purchased for the special music programs.

Turn to page 2)

(From page 1)

The opening history program on May 13 will feature Dr. Edward Finch, retiring executive director of the Stephenson County Historical Society and Museum. Dr. Finch will speak on the early industrialists of Stephenson County — W. T. Rawleigh, Daniel Stover and the Henneys of Cedarville and Freeport. Rawleigh and Henny are well-known names in the county, but Stover not as much even though he was reportedly the richest man in Freeport when he died in 1908.

On June 17, Joe Ginger, president of the Stephenson County Genealogical Society, will straighten out a lot of people who want to learn their family's history when he presents "Genealogy for Dummies". He will also answer questions from those with advanced knowledge.

Steve Cole, Freeport historian and genealogist, on July 15 will play the role of Frederick Douglass, pre-Civil War abolitionist, writer and lecturer, and explain Douglass's relationship to Freeport and describe his several visits to the city.

The history series concludes with the August 19 appearance of Steve Simpson, earth science instructor at Freeport's Highland Community College, who will explore the pre-history of Stephenson County. Simpson's power point talk will explain the forces that created today's physical features of the county. He will also describe the forms of life that lived here before man.



Dr. Edward Finch



Joe Ginger

The three special music programs will mark the return of Carl Cole of Rockford who with his family in 2012 presented a joyful hour of gospel music to a full house audience. This year Cole will perform as a solo pianist playing popular songs of American composers on the Cedarville Museum's 1906 upright piano.

Cole will appear on September 9 and 30 and October 14. The particular program for each performance will be announced at a later date. Seating is limited for the Cole series because the room with the piano is also used for exhibits.

Historical society board member Steve Myers and his wife, Sue, said they plan to offer seven classic films during the June and July free Friday night outdoor movies on the north lawn of the museum or inside in the event of rain. There will be no movie on Friday, July 4.

Freshly made popcorn, candy, coffee and soft drinks will be available at 50 cents each. Spectators are asked to bring lawn chairs. The museum bathrooms will be open during the shows.

Now that the February lunch is history, society volunteers are concentrating on the Saturday, May 3, opening of the museum. From then until October 26, the museum and the research center will be open from 1 to 4 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday and by special appointment at other times. Admission is free for society members and \$3 for non members.



Steven Cole as Douglass



Steve Simpson

This year's Memorial Day parade, ceremony and lunch will be Monday, May 26. The parade — labeled by Bade as the shortest but most patriotic in the country — steps off at 10 a.m. from in front of the telephone company building

(Turn to page 4)

TICKET ORDER

(From page 3)

In the 200 block of Mill Street. The official parade participants and the several hundred spectators will follow Mill Street and Red Oak Road, crossing Cedar Creek, to the Cedarville Cemetery where a ceremony will be conducted honoring the village's military veterans. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a picnic lunch will be served at the museum.

The historical society's final outdoor event for 2014 will be the all day Jane Addams Festival on Saturday, September 20. This year marks the 154th birthday of Cedarville's famous citizen who was born on September 6 and who is buried in the Cedarville Cemetery along with many members of her family.

"Most people know that Miss Addams was the founder of Hull-House in Chicago, but few know she was the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize in 1932, three years before her death" Bade said.

The festival starts with an early morning 5K run and walk on the Jane Addams Trail a few miles west of the village. Each participant gets a special festival T-shirt and a chance to win a performance medal or trophy. Bade said detailed information for those wishing to participate will be announced closer to the event. "But I can tell you that we hold this run and walk rain or shine," he added.

Last year the festival continued in the late morning and early afternoon on



Carl Cole

the grounds of the museum with live music and locally made arts and crafts being demonstrated, exhibited and sold. Plans for this part of the festival are not completed, Bade said.

In commenting on the role of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, Bade said, "The board, the volunteers and the members of the society believe that over the past ten years they have brought programs, services and events to the residents of the village and the people of the surrounding area that they never experienced before. In addition the society has raised more than \$205,000 in private money to restore and make use of an 1889 landmark building that probably would have been demolished." He concluded, "I think that's a great accomplishment for a community of 741 people."

	Number of <u>Tickets</u>
Tuesday, May 13, Edward Finch "Early Stephenson County Industrialists"	\$7 _____
Tuesday, June 17, Joe Ginger "Genealogy for Dummies"	\$7 _____
Tuesday, July 15, Steven Cole "Freeport and Frederick Douglass"	\$7 _____
Tuesday, August 19, Steven Simpson "Stephenson County before Man"	\$7 _____
Single ticket for all four programs above	\$24 _____
Tuesday, Sept. 9, 30, Oct. 14, Carl Cole Popular songs by American composers on the museum's 1906 upright piano Single ticket only for the three performances. Seating limited to 40 persons on first floor.	\$22 _____
TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone or E-Mail _____

Make payment to Cedarville Area Historical Society, P. O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013. For more information call Jim Bade, 815-563-4485 or e-mail bonniebade@comcast.net.

When Cedarville Players Trod the Stage

(Cedarville has a recorded history of fifty years of theatrical performances. The first phase was in the opening decade of the twentieth century; the second was in the 1920s; the third in the late 1940s and 1950s. Following is part one of Peggy Schoonhoven's memories of her 15 years in the last period. Editor)

A few minutes to "curtain time": excitement and nerves have peaked: we settle into quietness as the curtain opens and everyone awaits their first entrance on to the stage. It's time to forget about the audience and concentrate on the lines we have been learning in the weeks of rehearsals. Time to put aside our everyday lives of children, housework, jobs, washing, ironing, shopping, etc. It always amazed me to see how much talent we had that could quickly fall into character. Our plays drew from 500 to 600 people to our Cedarville Community House

(The community house was the former German Reformed Church on Cedar Street. The building no longer exists. Editor)

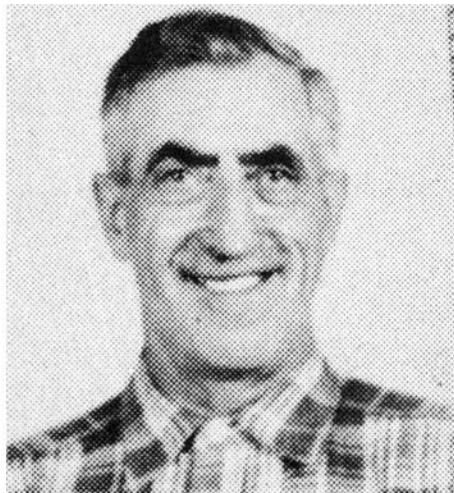
My theatrical career with the Cedarville Players began in October of 1948 with a three act comedy entitled "Bolts and Nuts." It has always been one of my favorites. Chris Bertram, alias Phineas Plunkett, would come to my house during the week to do extra rehearsals for the lines we had together. Now that's



Former Community House

dedication.

I wrote my memoirs of living twenty years in Cedarville last year for the Cedarville Area Historical Society newsletter. I told of a surprise encounter with Bertram in the same nursing home where my mother resided before her passing in August 1996.



Chris Bertram in 1955

I saw Chris sitting in a wheelchair in the lobby of the nursing home. I stood before him and asked, "Do you know who this is?" He looked up and with a big smile replied, "Miss Figg, I presume."

I could hardly believe he remembered a line from "Bolts and Nuts." That was the last time I saw Chris, but I will never forget him and the good times we had.

I really don't know why I declined the next three plays, but Harold (*Peggy's late husband*) and I helped with stage properties, advertising and ticket sales. In the spring of 1949, I took the part of a college senior in "Auntie Goes to College." It was the first play I could portray a young person and that was a change. Don Brubaker was the director and it was a fun play.

In October that same year, a play titled "Take Your Medicine" was chosen. It appealed to me so much and I stepped into this farce as head nurse and thoroughly enjoyed it. Five weeks of rehearsals plus three nights for the play put a lot of activities "on hold" at home, but I always felt it was worth it.

I recall I was always taking temperatures and saying "98". A change of pace came in one scene when I read the thermometer and screamed "106". I then discovered my patient had been blowing on it just for fun. Of course, I threw a hissy fit and I was pretty good at that.

In one scene, when the doctor was mak-

ing his rounds, a patient called out, "Hey doc, come take a look at my tongues. One of them is sore." It was a slight mistake, but the audience cracked up laughing. We did not think it was funny as we had to get everyone back on track.

(Conclusion of this article next month)

Addendum to February Article by Rick Noble

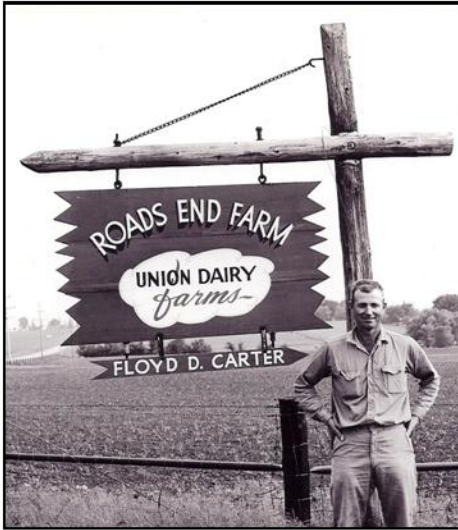
(Don't we all at sometime say, "I wonder whatever happened to?" Here's one of those answers. Editor)

The final chapter in the life of Miriam Conner, the stern but caring principal of Cedarville School, who treated Rick Noble's wound in last month's "iceball" story was told to the newsletter editor by former Cedarville resident Peggy Schoonhoven.

Mrs. Conner retired in 1974 after teaching 39 years, 14 of them in Cedarville. Following the death of her husband, Ralph, she married Edward Gummow. He died four years after their marriage.

In 1992 she was involved in an automobile accident and died two months later, according to Mrs. Schoonhoven, her caregiver at the time of her death.

Born in 1914, Miriam Conner Gummow was 78. She had no children. She was the daughter of Clem and Ada Parriott, well-known residents of Cedarville.



Left: Floyd Carter, undated, on dairy farm; Right: Floyd and Gwen at home in 2010

World War II Veteran Floyd Carter, 94, Dies

Cedarville area World War II veteran Floyd Carter died February 10 at the age of 94. He was one of the dozen men featured in a three year Cedarville Museum exhibit of veterans that closed this year.

Carter, a dairy farmer all his life, served in the army from 1941 to 1945, seeing extensive service in Europe. Second Lt. Carter was awarded the bronze star for battlefield actions.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, the former Gwen Wherley, two children, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

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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).