

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

MARCH 2015

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Society Sets 2015 Programs, Events

The 2015 season of the Cedarville Area Historical Society and museum will be outstanding and sprinkled with new concepts.

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

"The board has scheduled seven evening programs, two daytime special events and the popular free Friday night movies in June and July," he said. Several of the evening programs will benefit from new twists, he added.

The museum, the research center and the library, staffed by volunteers, will maintain its past Saturday and Sunday, afternoon May through October hours. In addition, special off hour tours of the museum will be accommodated whenever possible.

Tickets for the seven evening programs are available on page 5

The seven evening programs will be spread over the May through October season of the museum. As was the case last year, there will be four "hard core" history programs and three nights of live music of a special nature.

All museum evening programs are on a Tuesday and start at 7:30. They will be held in the second floor LeRoy Wilson Theater which can be accessed by stairs or the one button elevator installed three years ago. The theater is air conditioned for summer comfort and heated if the outside weather is cool.

Tickets for the seven nights can be ordered by completing the order form in this newsletter or by calling Bade at 815-563-4485. Program goers have many options. They may purchase a single ticket covering all seven programs, or a single ticket for either the history or music programs, or a ticket for an individual program. All tickets are transferable if a purchaser can not make a particular night. There is a price savings with the first two options. *(Turn to page 2)*

(from page 1)

This year's evening programs will open with three live music performances featuring songs native to several nationalities that have settled in Stephenson County from 1837 to the present.

Leading off on Tuesday, May 12, will be the accordion duo of Cedarville's Bobbie Edler and John Waetli, featured entertainers at the Rathskeller in Turner Hall, Monroe, Wi.

Bobbie is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa where she studied music and music history and played in the concert band.

John, with degrees from three universities and 34 teaching years on the faculties of three universities, has played the accordion off and on since he was five.

The 45 minute program is expected to include German, Swiss, Slovenian, French and Italian music.



L-R: Bil Mitchell, Mike Raridon, Wes Fisher and Mike Schirger



John and Bobbie pose in front of Monroe's Turner Hall.

On Tuesday, June 16, Casey's Fancy, the most popular Irish band in northwest Illinois, will take over the museum stage.

The group began in 1988 with the chance meeting of four musicians. Today the band includes Mike Raridon, Bill Mitchell, Wes Fisher and Mike Schirger. Deaths and retirement of three of the original members makes Raridon the only original member in today's group.

Fancy plays traditional Irish and American folk music with modern additions that are mostly "in the tradition."

The live music programs conclude Tuesday, July 14, with the guitar and strong voice of Antonio Castillo. From the Rock Falls-Sterling area, Castillo plays and sings well-known Mexican folk songs and music from other Hispanic countries with a touch that is excitingly different. Antonio can often be heard in Freeport at the Amigos Restaurant on North Galena Avenue.

With this year's four history programs, the Cedarville society is breaking new ground, at least for this area. The board believes the experiment will go over well with audiences who want more depth to presentations.

Programs on the life of Jane Addams are common. Programs on the life of her friend and co-worker Ellen Gates Starr, not so common. Programs on Julia Lathrop, another Addams Hull-House associate, rare. The society will present a program on each woman. Plus, they will be preceded by a special program that sets the stage for these three nights.

On Tuesday, August 4, Andy Dvorak,



Andy Dvorak

American history instructor at Highland Community College, will explore the events in the world and the United States that shaped the lives and work of the three women.

On Tuesdays, August 18, September 1 and September 15, Rockford actress Suzanne Crandall will present first person narratives of the lives of the three women, starting with Starr and ending with Addams. These costumed programs will be closer to performances than lectures.

The four evenings are deliberately spaced only two weeks apart so programs will remain fresh in the minds of the audience. Also, Dvorak will provide an outline of his talk to aid in the sequence of world and U.S. events. *(Turn to page 4)*



Antonio Castillo

TICKET ORDER

Dvorak has four college and university degrees and has taught for 31 years. Crandall has a degree from Rockford College and for 16 years has been a tour specialist for the Rockford Area Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Historical society board member Steve Myers and his wife, Sue, said they plan to offer two months of 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.

Freshly made popcorn, candy, coffee and soft drinks will be available at 50 cents each. Spectators are asked to bring lawn chairs.

The museum will open at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 2, and remain open until 4 p.m. on weekends through Sunday, October 31. Admission is free for society members and \$3 for non members.

This year's Memorial Day parade, ceremony and lunch will be Monday, May 25. The parade steps off at 10 a.m. from in front of the telephone company building in the 200 block of Mill Street. After the cemetery ceremony, there will be a lunch starting at 11 a.m. at the museum.

The historical society's final outdoor event will be the celebration of Jane Addam's 155th birthday on Saturday, October 3. The day starts with an early morning 5K run and walk on the Jane Addams Trail west of the village. The other events of the day will be announced later.



Suzanne Crandall as tour specialist and as Jane Addams



		<u>Number of tickets</u>
Tuesday, May 12, Bobbie Edler & John Waelti <i>Accordion duo of German, Swiss, Slovenian French, Italian songs</i>	\$7	_____
Tuesday, June 16, Casey's Fancy <i>Irish melodies that everyone loves</i>	\$7	_____
Tuesday, July 14, Antonio Castillo, guitar <i>Popular Mexican music played and sung</i>	\$7	_____
<u>Single ticket for all three programs above</u>	\$20	_____
Tuesday, August 4, Andy Dvorak <i>History of the world, Cedarville and three women</i>	\$7	_____
Tuesday, August 18, Suzanne Crandall <i>Ellen Gates Starr: A first person performance</i>	\$7	_____
Tuesday, September 1, Suzanne Crandall <i>Julia Lathrop: A first person performance</i>	\$7	_____
Tuesday, September 15, Suzanne Crandall <i>Jane Addams: A first person performance</i>	\$7	_____
<u>Single ticket for all four programs above</u>	\$25	_____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED _____

All tickets are transferable without penalty from one person to another person if you cannot attend a program.

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 at 815-563-4485 or e-mail bonnie.bade@comcast.net.

A Note from Our Overseas Branch

(I have often told visitors to the Cedarville Museum that the historical society is an international organization. It's true. We have a society member living in the historic city of Versailles, France, who receives the newsletter by e-mail. I heard from him this month. Editor)

Dear Editor:

Happy New Year, though the year has already lost a good bit of its shine and January is now crinkled up in the corner.

Your February issue just arrived in Versailles and was immediately devoured. I'm also writing to express my satisfaction with your article on playing history sleuth. It was well done and shows us all what some detailed sleuthing can produce when there is an interesting trove of historical society documents.

I'm simply sorry that I can't get involved in working on the questions in your conclusion. Mining the web is not something I have learned to do with any efficiency and it is my only resource.

Congratulations to you and the other members of the board for you led the membership to make an extra effort to give the historical society more leeway in its projects for 2015.

And now I return to the budget of our local association for putting a spotlight

on the royal hunting park around the Versailles chateau.

Best wishes,
Steve Phillips

(Steve's comments about the article refer to the February "mystery" surrounding the 1897 Cedarville private school run by the Hahn family. A brief follow-up to that article will be found on page 8 of this issue.

I know Steve exists. Perhaps he might provide a photo to calm the doubters.)

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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).

Bernice Dietmeier, 80, A Member of CAHS, Dies at Her Home

Bernice M. Dietmeier, 80, of Cedarville, died Saturday, February 21, in her home. She and her husband were members of the Cedarville Area Historical Society for many years.

She was born in 1934 in Freeport, the daughter of Fred and Lena (Wichman) Knoll. Bernice was a graduate of Dakota High School. She married Glenn G. Dietmeier Jr., in 1957.

Bernice worked at J & D Pet Paradise for 31 years. She was a member of Cedarville Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Bernice was known for her love of flowers, gardening, baking, canning and watching birds, especially cardinals.

Surviving are her husband, Glenn Dietmeier Jr., of Cedarville; son, Larry Dietmeier of Cedarville, and three grandchildren, Jena Leverton of Lanark, Jeremy of Freeport and Tania Dietmeier of Lena. Also surviving are six great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Edward.

A memorial has been established in Bernice's memory.

Burial was in Cedarville Cemetery.



Bernice M. Dietmeier

Are You Having a Party, Meeting, Celebration? Check Out the Museum

The Cedarville Museum is available for groups or individuals who need great facilities for celebrating a birthday, anniversary, special event or organization meeting.

Already this year we have been contacted about a wedding, a memorial celebration and a catered business meeting.

If you or a group that you represent are interested, call Jim Bade, 815-563-4485 or e-mail bonniebade@comcast.net.

Cedar Cliff School Mystery: Part Two

*By Jim Bade
CAHS President*

Last month's newsletter reported the somewhat strange 1897 story about the new Cedarville private school started by three members of the Hahn family. The story concluded with three questions:

1. Where was the school located?
2. Did the first class graduate in 1898?
3. Did one of the founders really design a major building in Freeport?

Frankly, there are no answers at this time to any of those questions. However, we have learned more details about the three founders — the widow Mrs. Julia Hahn and her two children, Howard and Laura.

Cedarville's Jane Addams historian Paul Fry disputes the school was in the John Weber Addams home called Cedar Cliff located above Cedar Creek. But he does remember the widow and Laura once lived in the Addams cottage on Mill Street with his Aunt Mary Fry.

Mrs. Hahn's husband, James, died in 1874 at the age of 34. The 1880 census lists her and her two children as living with her parents in Freeport. Julia died in 1919 so if she and Laura lived in the cottage, it would have been before that year.

There is no question that Howard was an

architect in Freeport around 1900. A January 15 article in that year reads "*Weary & Hahn, the architects, have dissolved partnership and it is probable that Al Aapf and Mr. Hahn will form a partnership to do business here, beginning the first of February.*"

Howard's early participation in that partnership might have been less than full, based on a February 21, 1900, Freeport newspaper article that said: "*Miss Laura Hahn is in Chicago with her brother Howard, who has had an operation performed for appendicitis. For a time his life was despaired of, but at last accounts he was rapidly recovering.*"

Apparently so because the Freeport Daily Bulletin reported on April 19, 1900, that Howard Hahn spent the Sabbath with his mother, Mrs. J. G. Hahn. He reported doing a "land office" business in Iowa.

It would seem the Hahn venture in private schools did not last long because the Daily Bulletin reported on May 18, 1907, "*Miss Laura Hahn, principal of the Davis schools has been elected principal of the Byron schools in Ogle county.*"

Laura married Edwin Kirk who died at 74 in 1935. Laura, a teacher 55 years, died in 1949 in Freeport's Park View Home at the age of 84. An educator to the end, in 1948 she received a B.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin.