

# **ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE NOVEMBER 2012**

*Cedarville Area Historical Society*



## **State Gives O.K. to Museum Lift**

The state of Illinois has approved the lift that was installed last month in the Cedarville Museum.

The approval came in the form of what is known as a "registration of conveyance" and a "certificate of operation." In effect this action by the office of the state fire marshal means the lift can be used immediately to move museum visitors between the first and second floors of the building.

The impact of the lift will be of special benefit to wheel chair users and other physically handicapped persons who would have difficulty ascending the steep winding stairs to make use of the second floor research center and the LeRoy Wilson Theater.

"Now everyone can use all the resources of the museum and the historical society," said Jim Bade, CAHS president.

The first major use of the new facility will be on Tuesday evening, December 11, when the historical society holds its annual Christmas party.

The machinery for the hydraulic lift and the shaft to house the unit cost \$36,000. After an anonymous historical society member contributed \$20,000, it took less than a month to raise the remaining \$16,000, all of it from individual society members with the exception of \$2,200 from the Cedarville Lions Club.

The shaft was constructed by Banner Construction, Freeport and CAHS volunteers. The lift was installed by Nu-Trend Accessibility Systems, Inc., Moline, Il.

### *Historical Society Searches For Scouts Led by Cronau*

Following the recent death of Cedarville resident Ray Cronau, his family donated the boy scout uniform he wore when he was scoutmaster of Cedarville Troop 23.

The historical society would like to collect memories of those who were members of the troop when he was leader.

If you fit this description, contact CAHS President Jim Bade at 815-563-4485 or [bonniebade@comcast.net](mailto:bonniebade@comcast.net).

## Historical Note Cards by Cedarville Artists Are Great Holiday Gifts



The titles and artists of the individual pieces of art are as follows: All are in full color.

1. A village dance on second floor of Strohm's store, Mill and Cherry Streets: Pam Barton
2. John Addams mill: Ron Beam
3. Mill and Second Streets 1910: Roger Goodspeed
4. Cedar Creek with bridge: Duane Smith
5. Cedar Creek south from Mill Street bridge: Harlan Corrie
6. Cedarville band 1908: Bessie Fay Little Bear (1889 - 1960)
7. John Addams Homestead: Duane Smith
8. John Addams barn: Roger Goodspeed
9. Cedarville Cemetery in winter: Harlan Corrie
10. Henney Buggy Co. on Mill and Cherry Streets: Ron Beam
11. Cedar Creek: Duane Smith
12. Eighteen sixty one shooting of the Union flag stretched across Mill Street between Richart's Store and Dr. Bucher's house north of Second Street intersection: Pam Barton

*Are you looking for different, inexpensive small gifts for Christmas? Look no longer. Why not give note cards and envelopes created by Cedarville area artists that depict Stephenson County scenes or local historical subjects? Six full color note cards with envelopes cost \$9 including mailing to you. All proceeds from the sale of the cards go directly to the Cedarville Area Historical Society. The artists — Duane Smith, Roger Goodspeed, Harlan Corrie, Pam Barton and the late Ron Beam — have contributed the art work. Because all labor to create the cards is done by volunteers, the sale of each six card and envelope package is the same as a \$6 gift to the historical society. Please make all orders in units of six.*

\_\_\_\_\_ packages of mixed cards 1 thru 6. Cost \$7.50 plus \$1.50 for mailing. Total: \$9 each package.

\_\_\_\_\_ packages of mixed cards 7 thru 12. Cost \$7.50 plus \$1.50 for mailing. Total: \$9 each package.

\_\_\_\_\_ packages of six note cards number \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \$7.50 plus \$1.50 for mailing. Total: \$9 each package.

\_\_\_\_\_ packages of six note cards number \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \$7.50 plus \$1.50 for mailing. Total: \$9 each package.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please send your order to the Cedarville Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013.

## More Memories by Peggy Ann Schoonhoven

*(Last month Peggy Ann Schoonhoven, 87, former Cedarville resident now living in Freeport, told of her arrival to the village with her divorced mother in the early 1930s. This month she continues with her memories. Because many of the younger readers won't be familiar with some of her references, the editor will take the liberty of jumping in with italicized commentary)*

Back in the 1930s all young people had birthday parties. My friends and I were blessed to be invited to parties in the former Jane Addams homestead, then being lived in by the Kenneth Knowlton family. The late Judge Dexter A. Knowlton, as a young boy, loved to have all kinds of parties and his mother was a gracious hostess who seated us in their large formal dining room. Popular games were "spin the milk bottle" and "post office." I am happy that the Jane Addams home is now being restored by another family. It is such an important part of Cedarville's history.



**Aseneth Knowlton, Lorraine Fry and Kenneth Knowlton at picnic lunch. Undated photo.**

At that time in our lives it seemed we could always find something to do. I formed a girl's club and named it the Penguin Club. We wore black skirts and white blouses and received lots of teasing from the boys. I remember a few boys who received some nasty scratches from my long fingernails.

In the good old summertime we enjoyed swimming in Cedar Creek near the Knowlton home in spite of water moccasin snakes. I took a dead one home one day in a bed of moss and disrupted a family reunion at my house. Aunts and uncles were running in all directions and they didn't even know why. I had laid the moss on an aunt's lap and the snake fell on the floor. I got some "room time" for that. I knew the snake was dead, but they didn't.

On warm summer evenings we could buy five cent double-dip ice cream cones and sit on Clint Fink's lawn and listen to the Cedar Cliff Band practice upstairs above his blacksmith shop. It was a good place to catch a jar full of fire flies to take home.

*(The ice cream was purchased from John Bollman's store on the north side of Cherry Street, a block east and across the street from the blacksmith shop. Fink, the band director, lived two lots south of the shop on the southeast corner of Cherry and Cedar.)*

The Community House (former German Reformed Church on Cedar Street) was a good place to watch our home team beat all the small town teams around. The yearly Halloween party there was always a fun night with games, food and prizes for best costumes. Even my mom would go in costume and no one could figure out who she was. The next morning we would usually have a piece of farm machinery on the store roof to remove. *(Incidents occurring after Glen Bear bought the Bollman store.)* Even after my marriage, my husband Harold got hurt helping a bunch of older fellows tip over an outhouse. He fell over a barbed wire fence getting away when they found the owner was sitting in it with a shotgun. He came home scratched and with a torn shirt. I told him it served him right and he should grow up.

Our Cedarville school games were also played at the Community House. Our team consisted of seven boys: LeRoy Wilson, Wendell Dassing, George Miele, Paul Kryder, Bill Barker, Jim Roach and the



infamous William (Bib) Wolfe. I even earned a letter for cheer leading. My favorite cheer was "A GREAT BIG C, A C-E-D, AN A, AN A, AN A-R-V, AN I, AN I, AN L-L-E, THAT'S THE WAY YOU SPELL IT, HERE'S THE WAY YOU YELL IT —————CEDARVILLE!" I could jump pretty high in 1940—41.

One eventful day (in 1936), I discovered bad things could happen even in a small town. We were out enjoying recess when we heard a lot of commotion just below the hill by the school. We sneaked as close to the edge of the hill as possible and saw liquid being dumped into the creek. It was causing lots of foam on the water. Several law men and police cars were all around. After school we learned the people living on the farm were operating a still. The revenue agents put a stop to that in a short time. It was the talk of the village for quite awhile.

Everyone walked to school in those days. The school hill in winter was a long walk up but a great hill to slide down going home. Mom bought me a pretty green dinner pail, square and flat on both sides. It made a great sled. She could not figure out how it got so scratched and bent. My tomboy personality brought me many friends, including boys. Favorites were Bib Wolfe, Bill Gillette, Bill Barker and LeRoy (Peewee) Wilson.

I have always loved cats. I presently have three and one is trained for walks with leash and harness. She is 14 years and is boss over the two males. She only has to hiss at them and lift a paw and that does it.

Dolls were rather boring and not a challenge. I could dress a kitten in doll dresses and bonnets, put them in a doll buggy and take them for a walk. Now that was fun. One day Mom even let me take one on the bus to Freeport to have its picture taken at the dime store. A lady sitting next to me on the bus asked to see my dollie. I lifted a corner of the baby blanket and she was surprised to see a cat in a dress and bonnet looking at her. I held a finger up to my lips and said, "sh" and the woman just smiled.

Girls I spent most of my time with were Harriet Lelle, Norma Fink, Norma Bolender, Dolores Daws and Patty Zimmerman. Everyone has a favorite cousin. Mine was Marjorie Zweifel and we kept in touch until she passed away last year.

Daddy Bear had several nieces that were very nice to me, the newcomer in the Bear family. I loved to be with Helen Bear who later married a pastor who came to town. His name was Rev. Paul Dunn. Since he was a bachelor, mom invited him to join our family dinners on Sundays. We tried to match him up with Helen's sister, but he had a mind of his own and wanted Helen.

The month before my seventh grade school year I heard mom and dad talking to some relatives and my world came crashing down. Daddy Bear had been offered a job in Burlington, Wisconsin, with my Uncle Elmer Korth. He had invented something called the Korth Kooler. Installed on the roof of a commercial building, it reused water and thus lowered water bills.

I begged, cried and pleaded, but we moved. It meant the end of everything I loved in a little town I loved. I would be facing a new school, new town, new teachers and, I hoped, new friends. Prayers are answered even for little girls. The Korth Kooler didn't sell well and I was told we were going back to Illinois. The folks were going to look for a store to buy.

They started looking at grocery stores in small



towns, but not in Cedarville. I went with them the day we looked at the store in Buena Vista and when we got back to the car, I cried some more. Mother said, "Just think, you could be the Belle of Buery." Some consolation! That was the last thing I wanted to be. I was filled with joy and disbelief when Daddy Bear announced he had purchased Bollman's store in Cedarville. Now I was the grocer's daughter instead of the Belle of Buery and I would soon be home in Cedarville for eighth grade.



**Daddy Bear purchased Bollman's store in 1938.**

We cleaned out old merchandise in the store and in the attic. The store had many old things like wasp waist corsets, high button shoes, buggy whips and lots of candy jars. The folks put everything out for auction. Lorraine Fry bought some of it and the Cedarville Players used some of it.

For a long time the men of the village had used the store for a gathering spot and sat around the stove chewing tobacco and arguing politics. Mother ran a tight ship and soon changed that. They installed a floor furnace and there was no more lounging or tobacco chewing in the store. Gradually it became a neat country store with a full line of groceries, fresh produce and meat. Soon it was known as Bear's Clover Farm when they joined a franchise. Daddy went to Freeport every week to warehouses and butcher shops. I believe we also bought meat in Hoefers butcher shop in Orangeville.

My brother, Robert, lived in Monroe, was married and worked for Allen Ice Cream Co. Once a week

week he delivered to the store this very rich ice cream with a high cream content. I loved to work in the store and learned to dip ice cream, use the cash register and to write up charges for customers who preferred to pay their bill monthly. I even learned to candle eggs and pump vinegar from a barrel in the back room.

We had the old crank telephone. You would turn the handle and central would ask, "Number, please." Of course it was a party line and if you wished to hear some gossip, you just quietly lifted the receiver and listened in. One lady would walk up from the west edge of town to use our phone to call the police when the family was fighting. There were a number of very colorful residents living in Cedarville as I grew up. I could write a book.

Eighth grade graduation was held in Freeport for all the small schools in Stephenson County. My graduating exercises were held at 10 a.m., June 9, 1939, in the Freeport Senior High School gymnasium. Thomas R. Pfisterer was county superintendent of schools. My teacher was Miss Glasser who later married Mr. Bluemel, another teacher.

We had two years of high school in Cedarville before being transferred to Freeport High. In Cedarville there were not many students in 1940 and you knew everyone. What a transition to a school with 300 students. Our Cedarville teacher, basketball coach and principal was Charles Bily. I loved to write and whenever I would do a short story, he would mimeograph it for me. Two that I remember were "My Son, John" and "The Spiderweb Shawl." I was still hanging out, so to speak, with the same friends. Bib Wolfe began to be around more than others. Could it be I had a boyfriend? I guess he was my "puppy love", but he was also like a brother. Sometimes in the evening we would walk around in the Old Settler's Grounds on Stephenson Street. We kids called it the OSG. It was like a park and where the Old Settler's reunions were held. Now there are homes there.

*(More of Peggy's memories in the next newsletter)*



## Museum Adds to Early Dress Collection

Two Bowers family members visited the museum this month bringing additional clothing and information of Blanche Bowers, a 19-year-old Dakota farm girl who died in 1917 of several illnesses. Earlier this year the family donated three finely made dresses worn by the girl and numerous photos of the family and its farm. The apparel will be part of next year's clothing exhibit.

*Upper left: Judy Corrie, museum volunteer (l), and Kris Powers, Madison, study one of the new acquisitions. Middle: Kris views current Bowers' exhibit. Below, left: Rodney Bowers, Dakota, and Kris compare memories of the Bowers family. Rodney is one of three sons of Blanche's only brother. Upper, right: Rodney gave several photographs of the Bowers farm to the exhibit.*

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*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).*



# Former Resident Gayle Wilson Dies

Gayle Mae Wilson, 83, former Cedarville resident and long time member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society died Tuesday, October 9 in DePere Wis.

She was born Jan. 2, 1929, in Freeport to William and Gracia Cramer. Mrs. Wilson was graduated from Freeport High School in 1947 and then worked at Furst-McNess Corp. in Freeport.

She married LeRoy D. Wilson of Cedarville in 1951 at Embury Methodist Church in Freeport. He preceded her in death on Nov. 29, 2008, the year they celebrated 57 years of marriage. The couple spent most of their married life in Cedarville and were very involved in their church and community.

In later years she worked as an underwriter at Economy Insurance Co. in Freeport.

Mrs. Wilson was a life time member of the Cedarville Methodist Church. She enjoyed many interests including gardening, reading, walking, flower arranging and playing cards with friends. After her husband's death she sold her Cedarville home and moved to DePere to be closer to family.

She is survived by sons Curtis (Kathleen) of DePere and Cameron (Dana) of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. and a daughter Karen (Gene) Brander of Lake Mills, Wis.



*Gayle Mae Wilson*

Other survivors include seven grandchildren, one great granddaughter and her only brother, Richard, of Orangeville.

Services were held at Cedarville United Methodist Church with Rev. Julie Bunt officiating. Burial was at Cedarville Cemetery. A memorial fund has been established in her name for the Cedarville Area Historical Society or Heartland Hospice.

The family wishes to thank the exceptional and dedicated staffs at Angels on Arcadian in DePere and Heartland Hospice for the compassionate care of their mother.