

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

September 2020

Cedarville Area Historical Society



The Museum is temporarily closed due to the Coronavirus outbreak. We will email and post on Facebook with updates.

Museum Updates

Museum Board Decides Not to Officially Open—But Allow Visits

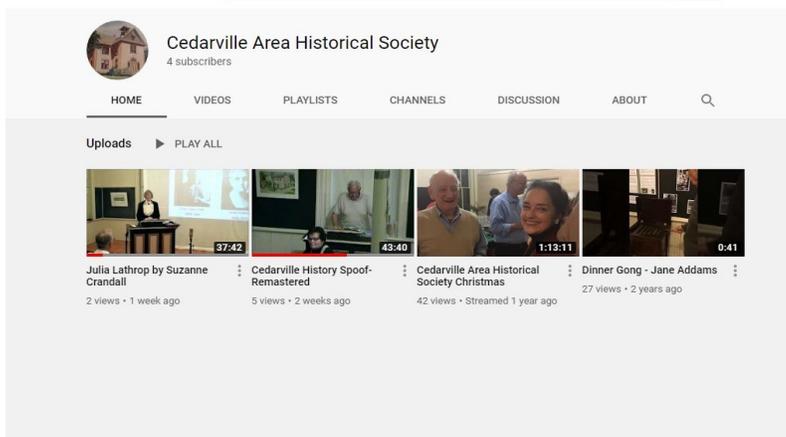
After the monthly board meeting on September 1, 2020, the CAHS board decided to wait another month before considering opening the museum. We don't foresee opening during October, which is normally our final month of the season. However, we will do our best to accommodate requests for visits. Please email requests to info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org or call/text Steve Myers (815-990-0417) or Lisa Goodwin (815-847-9127). Thank you for understanding.

Museum Gets Security System

With the newly installed system, which includes a video doorbell, a visitor can contact one of the directors by pressing the doorbell. If someone is available to meet the visitor, we would be happy to do so. For requests to visit, we recommend that a visitor contacts us at least 24 hours ahead by email or phone/text (shown above) to give us some time to schedule.

Programs Available on YouTube

In order to brighten your fall, CAHS will be making available many programs from the last 16 years on YouTube. We already added our very own Cedarville spoof starring our own Society members. Our latest addition is the Cedarville Cemetery Walk—guided by our very own Jim Bade (President Emeritus). We hope to add one program per week. Keep watching for a guided tour video of the Jane Addams room presented by Jim Bade.



Please go to Youtube and search “Cedarville Area Historical Society” to find us.

“Like” our page at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCtNjKA5hA5R5ZSVO2bEGfBA> to get automatic upload updates.

Programs Delayed Until Spring 2021

Due to the coronavirus, the history related evening programs for the Spring have been delayed until spring 2021. The CAHS board reviewed every possible option and has decided it would be best to delay the program.

For those with tickets, please hold on to them. Don't worry if you misplace them. We have you in our records. If you prefer a refund please contact us by email and we will make the arrangements. Thank you for understanding.

Museum Research Center Adds 175 Addams-Related Books to Collection

Reprinted from April 2008 issue

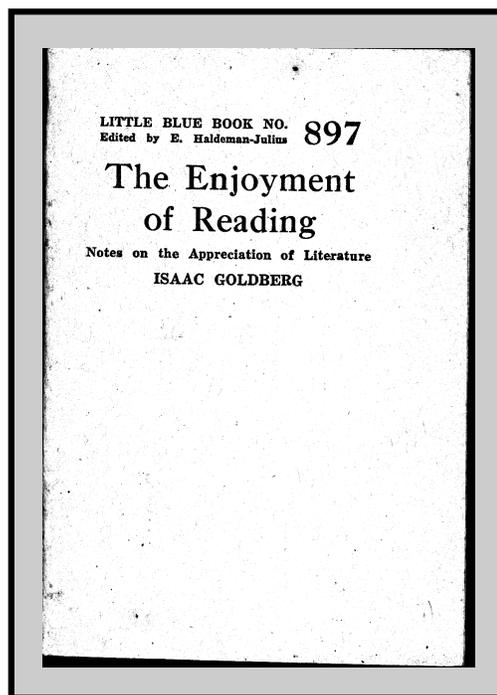
For 52 years — from 1919 to 1971 — almost 2,000 different editions of the inexpensive “Little Blue Book” were published in Kansas by Marcet and Emanuel Haldeman-Julius, she being the niece of Jane Addams. in 1941 at the age of 53, after which Emanuel remarried.. Their son Henry continued publishing until 1971. The printing plant burned in 1976 and millions of copies of the “Little Blue Book” and other pamphlets were destroyed.

These 3 1/2 by 5 inch cheaply printed books — in which major literary works and others of dubious distinction were condensed to no more than 64 pages — sold hundreds of millions of copies to an audience eager for what they considered a fast education from an inexpensive source. During this pandemic, access to the research center can be obtained by emailing us or contacting one of the directors.

The Cedarville Museum's Rosabelle Cronau Research Center, which previously had fewer than a dozen copies of these books, now has more than 180 thanks to a special purchase of 166 from an on-line bookseller and a gift of six more from Paul Fry of Cedarville. This is possibly the largest number of these books in any collection devoted to Jane Addams and members of her family.

The relatively fragile books will not be on the research center library shelves for general perusal, but they will be available for study by serious researchers. As time permits, as many as possible will be scanned and copies made available. There is a catalog of the collection.

Most of the editions were published during the life of Emanuel, who was found dead in 1951 in his private swimming pool. He was 62. Marcet had died



Cover of “Little Blue Book” No. 897

Cedarville Yearbook Story

Part 2 of 2

By Jim Bade

(continued from August 2020 issue)

LeRoy (that's with a capital "R") Wilson was well known because of his many years of involvement in Cedarville government, social and civic life and as author of numerous articles for the Cedarville Area Historical Society. The humorous, nostalgic, short stories of Cedarville life in the 1930s appeared for several years. He was particularly nostalgic in a February Valentine Day's article when he opined that Norma Jean Bolender (later Enzler) was obviously the prettiest girl in his class when "she won hands down for many years." because she received the most cards.

Graduating from Freeport High School in June 1944, he enlisted in the U.S. navy the following day and served two years in the Asiatic - Pacific area.

He married Gayle M. Cramer in 1951. She survived her husband but died at age 83 in 2012.

During his 82 year life he attended Rockford College and Highland Community College, was employed by Freeport's Micro Switch for 25 years, served 14 years on the Cedarville Village Board, eight of those years as president, served in 1965 as building chairman for a new United Methodist church.

There are several other male students during the four year period represented in the two books, but it is either too difficult to read their names or there is too little biographical material available. This was especially true with the 1940 - 41 book where pages of the same material were reproduced using several sheets of carbon paper.

Reviewing the names of girls listed in the books poses another problem: A great deal of the information in the society's archives comes from newspaper accounts and it has only been in relatively recent years that girls and women have had positions in society that would merit newspaper coverage. Obituaries or a relationship to a particular male are usually the best sources of information.

Some of the female names in the books that are more than names are:

Florence Bertram: Florence, a sophomore in 1938-39, was the younger sister of Chris Bertram, the father of Galen Bertram, treasurer of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Chris became the custodian and bus driver for Cedarville School.

Ethel Korth: A photo of Ethel indicates she

was a classmate of Florence Bertram, but she is not listed as a student.

Bernice

Dassing: Listed as a classmate of Florence Bertram. There is also an undated wedding photo of Bernice and her husband Ralph Mathiot.

Verlene Wil-

son: A freshman in 1938 - 39 and older sister of LeRoy Wilson, at that time a

seventh grade student along with the aforementioned Norma Jean Bolender.

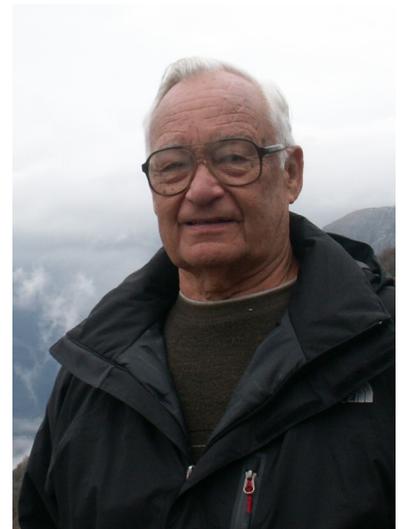
Ethel Kryder (Homan): Seventh grade classmate of LeRoy Wilson and Norma Jean Bolender. She was the sister of Paul Kryder, eighth grade student. Born in 1926 she died in 2017 at age 90. She was the daughter of Charles and Helen (Frank) Kryder. She worked for Micro Switch for 30 years. She had a son and daughter.

Patty Zimmerman: Patricia was a fifth grade student in 1938 - 39. She was the daughter of Cedarville piano teacher Elfreda Zimmerman. Patty in 1948 married Bob Bratley. Bob was in the sixth grade when she was in the fifth. The couple had three sons and two daughters. Patty died in 2002.

Karen Zimmerman: Karen was in first grade in 1938-39 and the younger sister of Patty. Karen was born in 1932 and married Arlyn Thompson in 1950. The couple had two sons and a daughter. The oldest son, 31, took his own life in 1984.

As a young girl, Karen had a reputation as a great songstress of country music. A 1948 review of a Cedarville minstrel show gave rave reviews to the 16-year-old girl and she was called back for two encores.

Karen and her husband were longtime cafeteria and restaurant owners and operators in Freeport and Pearl City. She died in 2005 at the age of 73 in her home in Crawford, Fl.



Cedarville Area Historical Society
1212 S. Stewart Ave, Freeport IL 61032

Postage

Return Service Requested

Museum Hours (Temporarily Closed)

April –October

Saturday 1-4PM

Sunday 1-4PM

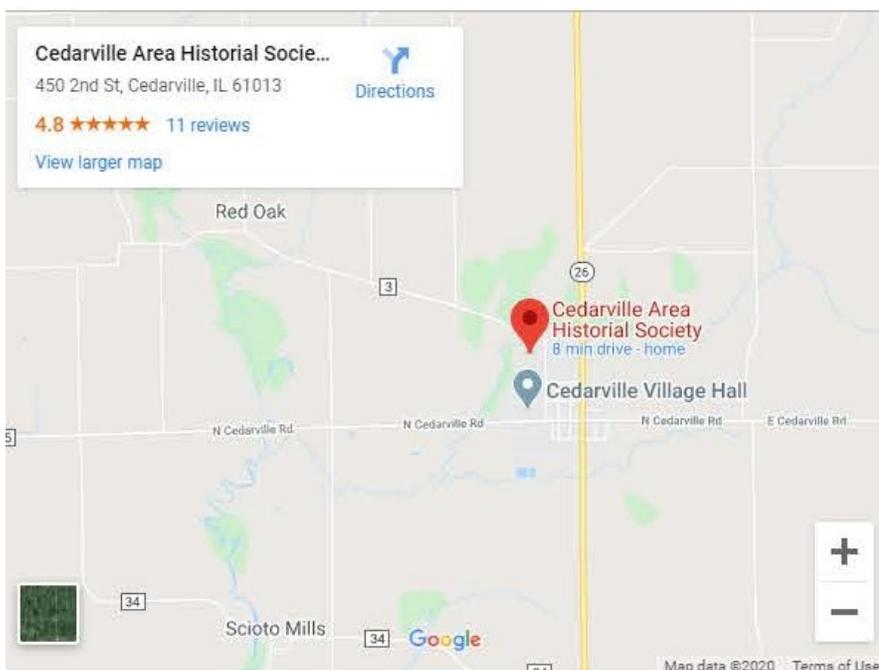
Or by appointment by calling

815-990-0417 or 815-847-9127

We Want Your Stories

Email us your stories or antidotes about Cedarville or the Cedarville area. We will present them in following newsletters. Email

***If you have not renewed your membership, please do so.
We need your support. Thank you.***



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www.cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

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info@cedarvilleareahistoricalsociety.org

Facebook-Cedarville Area Historical Society
Youtube-Cedarville Area Historical Society

Steve Myers, President
Lisa Goodwin, Vice President
Galen Bertram, Treasurer
Sharon Barmore, Secretary
Andy Dvorak, Director
Carol Meyers, Director
Don Franz, Director
Moira Knowlton, Director
Jim Bade, President Emeritus

The society is recognized as a non-profit organization by Illinois and the U.S. government