

More Memories of LeRoy Wilson

(Continued from previous page)

What" was folded in a paper wrapping. You knew you would get two small candy kisses, but what would the prize be? One never knew what the prize was. It could be a small whistle, a top, a picture or a small balsa airplane to assemble. Anyway, you get the idea. It was the gamble you took to find out what was in the "guess what" that always tempted me. And people, when you had only one penny to spend, you had to make it count. I still break out in a sweat thinking about it.

There was also a lot of marble playing done at Strohm's corner. There was no grass, just fine cinders — that was a great surface for shooting marbles. We played *circle*, *diamond* or *hole* marbles. We played *keepers*. What you won you got to keep. Sometimes I

came home with bulging pockets, but many times the pockets were empty. If you would like an explanation of *circle*, *diamond* or *hole*, let me know. I can explain those rules at a later time. By the way the best marble player in the village was Bob Bratley. No question about it.

I also remember attending dances in the hall on the second floor of Strohm's. I was too young to dance, but it was great fun to watch my Dad and older sister waltz around the floor.

So go back seventy years in time. Strohm's corner was a great place to have fun.

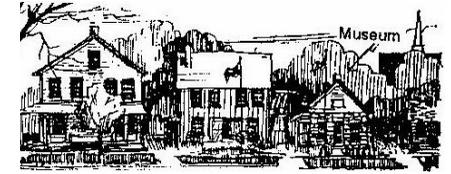
And just up the street to the east was the *Bright Spot*, the only tavern I can remember in Cedarville. More about this later.



Leila Strohm DeZell (left) and Corral Strohm Folgate, daughters of Ida and John Strohm.

This photo and the one on page seven were provided by Shirley Schwartz, Cloverdale, Or. Ida Diemer Strohm was the sister of Clarence Diemer, grandfather of Mrs. Schwartz.

ECHOES OF
CEDARVILLE
FEBRUARY 2005



Cedarville Area Historical Society

Historical Society Launches Drive To 'Sell' Old School Blackboards

The Cedarville Area Historical Society has recreated all of the blackboards in the two first floor classrooms of the 1889 village school and is looking for sponsors to "buy" the boards to pay part of the cost of turning the building into a museum and meeting area for local history programs.

There are 42 individual blackboards arranged in the original configuration available for sponsorship at a cost of \$2 a lineal inch. The individual boards cost between \$20 and \$100. Already eighteen have been spoken for.

Each sponsor will be recognized with a small plaque in the upper right hand corner of each blackboard. The Society suggests that the plaque contain the printed name and signature of the sponsor plus the year, although variations are possible.

The Society expects to raise \$3,200 through this program. The money will be used to pay the cost of attaching the new handicapped accessible bathrooms to the village water system, to pay for connecting electricity to the new first floor heating plant, to pay for a new west side exterior door, to pay for materials used to construct the blackboards and to buy paint.

The blackboards were created and installed at no cost to the Society by Steve and Sue Myers. Steve is a member of the Society board of directors. The boards are quarter inch thick masonite finished with blackboard paint and trimmed.

Details of the sponsorship plan and location of individual blackboards can be found in the separate brochure that is part of most of these newsletters.

Historical Society Eyes May 1 Use of Old School as Museum

The Cedarville Area Historical Society will begin operating its museum in the village's 1889 school building on May 1, the museum's normal opening date.

The decision to move exhibits from the current Cherry Street location to the old school was made at the society's board meeting on Tuesday following the February 6 annual meeting. The displays will be in the building's first floor north room. The south room will be reserved for programs.

Before the move can take place, the north room needs additional work including adequate electrical service, stripping and refinishing of the maple floor and repair and painting of the ceiling and walls above the new blackboards. There will also be a need for some exhibit construction.

The estimated cost of this work is \$5,000 to \$6,000 with much of the labor being volunteered. The historical society will seek contributions to pay for the work.

The board's February 8 meeting was the first after the annual meeting and two

two new board members were welcomed: Denise Rogers and Steve Myers. They joined Narcissa Engle, Ruth Smith, Mary Reed, Moira Knowlton, Neil Scheider, Dave Kaiser and Jim Bade. Because of the heavy agenda, election of officers was postponed until the March meeting.

Dr. Dammann Again Offers East Coast Tour

Dr. Gordon Dammann, a member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, is again offering his East Coast history and shopping tour. Leaving Lena on October 13 and returning on October 18, the motor coach trip costs \$775.

Among places to be visited are Dammann's National Museum of Civil War Medicine, Gettysburg, Antietam, Arlington National Cemetery, a Smithsonian Museum, the World War II Memorial and several special shopping centers.

For more information call Dr. Dammann at 815-369-4094 or Joyce Brinkmeir at 815-369-2603.

Mystery Writer Unmasked; Offers New Tale of History

(Cedarville's LeRoy Wilson confessed to being the author of last month's story about Strohm's ice house. Here's another 1930's tale Editor)

Last month I talked about how Strohm's grocery put up ice in the winter for summer use in Cedarville. In those days most people in the village had ice boxes. How many of you can remember keeping your food from spoiling in an ice box? Our ice box sat on the back porch. It had to be located so you could drain it easily to the outside because as the ice melted it made water. I can hear my grandma still: "Close that ice box door." So much for the ice when I was a child.

Strohm's was a kind of hub in the village. It was a place where we could take our pennies and stare through the glass candy case forever. There were two things I cherished the most: Big flat sticks of bubble gum and "guess whats."

In later years bubble gum came in round sticks, but in my day it came in wide, long, flat sticks. I would roll it up in a spiral tube and shove it in and start to chomp. That was heaven.

There were times when I was torn with anxiety. I wanted bubble gum, but I also wanted a "guess what." A "guess
(turn to next page)



Ida Diemer Strohm and her husband, John, with their dog Buster on steps of their store at the northeast corner of Cherry and Mill Streets, Cedarville. Date of photo is unknown.



BUCKEYE SCHOOL: 1930: Far right row, front to back: Arlene Gearhart, Mar-
 cet Hutmacher, Margaret Gerber, Ruth Bear, Ruby Hutmacher, Helen Koch, Har-
 old Koch. Second row from right, front to back: Lois Hutmacher, Roland Shippy,
 Helen Bear, Robert Gerber, Frana Moser, Frank Keister, Marie Hutmacher. Third
 row from right, front to back: Helen Shippy, Earl Keister, Helen Gerber, John Kry-
 der. Fourth row from right, front to bck: Betty Kryder, Bob Hartman. Front
 bench on left, right to left: Jean Hutmacher, Bob Schradermeier, LaVerne Stubbe,
 Jeannette Koch, Herman Gerber. Teacher: John G. Leiser.

Cedarville's Ruth Bear Wagner supplied this photo. Upon seeing it, Betty Kryder Neuschwander, now of Loxley, AL., and like Ruth one of those pictured, wrote: "It brings back a lot of memories including the recitation bench with my dad's initials C.W.K. carved on it plus his friend Benny Noieske (B.E.N.) initials..... That was a cold, cold school in the winter. Water would freeze in the water pail in the coat room and some times we wore our over shoes all day to keep our feet warm. Plus, the outdoor privies were no fun. Seems winters were colder then. The roads would drift completely shut from bank to bank and there were no snow plows. I would have been seven years old when that picture was taken 75 years ago.



CEDARVILLE BLACKSMITH SHOP: LeRoy Wilson supplied this photograph of a village blacksmith shop. He wants to know its location, who are the people, when was the photograph taken? One person has identified the shop as being located on the southwest corner of Illinois Rt. 26 and Cherry Street.

(During the February 6 luncheon, Bob MacKenzie of Lafayette Street, Cedarville, passed on several poems he had written about this area to one of the historical society's board members. The editor takes pleasure in printing one of them here.

LAFAYETTE STREET

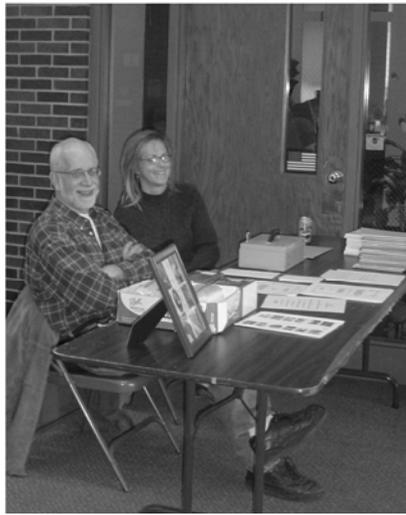
Across the road is one old pine
 a bold red barn just behind
 Now remnants of what used to be
 of a sprawling farm with stately trees

An orchard of apples, pears, and plums
 and cherry trees, have all succumbed
 As have vast fields of wheat and rye
 and grazing herds on a skyline

All have gone across the road
 but for that one pine
 And still standing red and bold
 the barn just behind

Was LaFayette street then a lane
 cutting through a field of grain
 Or a meadow where horses ran
 through waves of swaying knee hi grass

And oh, the memories that now are forced
 by building and by trees
 And I truly thank you Lord
 for leaving them for me.



Everybody Enjoyed

The February Lunch



From the beginning



..... to the very sweet end