LeRoy’s Valentine’s Day
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When the day arrived, the box was torn open. The teacher read the names and a couple of her pets delivered the cards. As I said previously, this was a popularity contest.

The one who received the greatest number and best cards in my class was Norma Jean Bolender Enzler. She won hands down for many years. There were always a few kids who got very few cards. Maybe the teacher stuffed the box for them. In those days we worried very little about hurt feelings, a custom gone from the past.

LeRoy Wilson’s Book
Of Articles Available

A vinyl covered book of articles by LeRoy Wilson that have appeared or will appear in the historical society newsletter will be available at the February 5 historical society lunch.

The 8 1/2 by 11 inch publication of 24 pages contains 13 articles and 32 photographs, eight in color. The cost is $7.

Also available at the lunch will be copies of the popular note cards depicting historical scenes in the village and CDs of the Carole Bertram and Paul Fry programs. The 20 different cards are $1.25 each; the CDs are $8 each.

Calling All Former Cedarville Students! The Society Needs You

The Cedarville Area Historical Society is anxious to contact students who attended school in the building that is now the Cedarville Museum. The board of the historical society wants to tell them about the exciting restoration and resurrection of the old school and to invite them to become members of the society.

If you know the name and address of former students who you think might be interested in hearing about the work being done at the old school, please send this information to the Cedarville Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 336, Cedarville, IL 61013. The society’s board of directors thanks you in advance.

Annual Meeting, Lunch February 5

The annual meeting of the Cedarville Area Historical Society and the society’s traditional chili/soup/sandwich lunch will be at 11 a.m. Sunday, February 5, in the Cedarville Community Center on Washington Street. The lunch runs until 2 p.m. Lunch tickets are $5 for adults and $3 for children under 12. The tickets will be available at the door.

Three nominees for three year terms on the society’s board are Ruth Smith, Narcissa Engle and Steve Myers. They are current directors with expiring terms. Continuing board members are Mary Reed, Denise Rogers, Moira Knowlton, Neal Scheider, David Kaiser and Jim Bade.
Museum Volunteering Becomes Family Affair

Renovation has started on the first floor south room of the museum, the former village 1889 school.

Steve Myers, historical society board member, and part of his family worked several days to prepare the walls and ceiling for repair, stuccoing and painting. Floor refinishing and electrical work will follow.

Below, top and bottom, are Nathan Myers, 13, and Emily Myers, 11, and their mother, Sue, scrape stairway wall leading to second floor prior to patching by Steve.

The Drama of Valentine’s Day

By LeRoy Wilson

With February comes Valentine’s Day. This brings back memories of Valentine’s Days past.

During my elementary school days at Cedarville, it ranked right up there with any holiday. Before the great day arrived, we spent some of our art class time making a huge valentine box. This was usually a large cardboard box with white paper covering it and hearts pasted on the paper. A slot was cut in the top so we could slip in valentines.

I don’t know how it is today, but by the time we reached the fifth or sixth grade in my time we suddenly discovered there were girls. That’s when valentines became important.

During the depression years we didn’t have money for store bought cards. We made our cards out of leftover wallpaper. We folded the wallpaper and cut out a three or four inch heart. The heart could then be opened and our message written on the inside. Some of the messages got a bit silly. I could share a few, but that’s another story.

This was a time in your young life when you found out if people liked or disliked you, who was popular, who wasn’t. Very traumatic!

I previously stated no one had money to get store bought cards. Some times if you really liked a boy or girl you would find a nickel or dime to buy a special card. We brought our cards to school and stuffed them in the slot of the box. One tried to do this with the least amount of attention. No one wanted to let the others see them drop the homemade wallpaper hearts in the box. Neither did we want it seen that we had store bought cards for a special friend.

(Turn to the next page)
**Historical Society Seeks Old Photos, Documents to Scan**

One of the primary responsibilities of the Cedarville Area Historical Society is to collect, preserve and interpret historic photographs and documents. To do this the historical society needs the cooperation of its members and the general public.

With today’s technological advancements, it is no longer necessary that owners of artifacts donate them to the historical society. The photos and documents can be scanned and preserved electronically and returned to the owner within days. In that way the owner can retain the photo or item and future generations can make use of them. This storage method is also an excellent way to make sure there is a record of the item in the event the original is lost or destroyed.

If you have an old photograph, diary, abstract, letter or other two dimensional item that you think might be of interest to an historian, call Jim Bade, president of the Cedarville Area Historical Society at 815-563-4485. Once scanned, the image will be stored with a backup copy in the historical society’s electronic library where it will be available for research or reproduction. The society already has several hundred photos and documents available.

**New Signs Now Direct Visitors to the Museum**

Seven new signs on Cedarville streets now make it easier for visitors to find the museum in the 1889 school building.

The county has installed directional signs east and west of Mill Street on Washington Street (Cedarville Road), west of Mill Street on Cherry Street and north and south of Second Street on Mill Street.

The state has placed directional signs north and south of Cherry Street on Illinois Highway 26.

The historical society wants to thank Chris Isbell of the Stephenson County Highway Department and Kurt Glazier of the Illinois Department of Transportation for their assistance in obtaining the signs.

**Volunteers Needed**

The Cedarville Area Historical Society needs help with the various programs planned for the 2006 season. If you want to volunteer your services, please call Jim Bade at 815-563-4485.

The Society needs people for the August 5 Cedarville historic house walk.

The Society needs people to greet visitors to the museum for several hours on Saturdays and Sundays from May through October.

The Society needs people to help during the Memorial Day picnic and the September Jane Addams Festival.

The Society needs people to help with this summer’s landscaping project.

The Society is looking for artists who would like to submit original artwork that portrays the history of Cedarville. The artist's work would be considered for the Society’s History and Art Program.

**Five Committees Help Plan Society’s Agenda for 2006**

Eighteen members of the Cedarville Area Historical Society are serving on five committees helping to plan the organization’s programs for the current year. It is expected that several more committees will be formed as 2006 progresses.

Five women, all members of the Society’s board, have handled arrangements for the February 5 lunch: Mary Reed, Narcissa Engle, Moira Knowlton, Ruth Smith and Denise Rogers.

Serving as advisors on a long range financial planning group are: Steve Glaze, Galen Bertram, Joel Scheider, LeRoy Wilson and Ron Beam.

The historical society will hold a village historical house walk on Saturday, August 5. Preparing for the event are Gina Cole, Judy Corrie, Jane Goodspeed and Sue Myers. More volunteers will be needed as the walk draws nearer.

Artists Harlan Corrie, Duane Smith and Roger Goodspeed have taken on the task of museum exhibit coordination. They will help design and execute the exhibits and determine the museum’s layout. At this time five exhibits are scheduled.

Bonnie Bade will organize the historical society’s research library.
From left: George DeZell, his wife Leila Strohm DeZell, her sister Corell Strohm Folgate, their parents Ida Diemer Strohm and John Strohm, Grandma Folgate and her husband Uriah Folgate, grandparents of Raymond Folgate, the husband of Corell and the photographer. Picture taken before 1933, the year Uriah died.

Lost photos from the past

This month many previously unknown photographs were brought to the historical society. The top three are from Mary Reed and are part of the collection of the late Clyde Kaiser, Mary’s uncle and for many years Cedarville’s unofficial historian. They represent prominent village families of the 19th and 20th centuries. The bottom left photo is from Paul Fry whose great grandfather, Charles Duth, owned the house from where the picture was taken. The school photo is from Nelson Ottenhausen, former resident. It shows Cedarville School grades 7 and 8 in 1951. In the picture are: Roger Borger, Patricia Grant, Patricia Daugbenbaugh, Iris Knoble, Jacqueline Gage, Juneal Solday, Harry Cummins, George Cummins, Robert (Max) Hooper, Carol Herman, Richard Grant, Lorraine Cummins, Howard Pinow, Floyd Barkau and Margaret Ottenhausen. Nelson’s sisters, Margaret and Joanne, live in Cedarville. Richard Louthain was teacher and principal.