

Gifts to CAHS Top \$15,000 in 19 Months

The Cedarville Area Historical Society has received contributions totaling \$15,032 from June 1, 2005 to December 31, 2006, a period of only 19 months.

These tax deductible funds have been used for restoration and construction within the 1889 school now used as a museum, landscape projects on museum grounds and sponsorship of historical programs. Approximately \$3,000 is available for future use. None has been used for general operating expenses.

The contributors, some who gave more than once, are:

Gene and Karen Brander
Judy and Harlan Corrie
Ray and Rosabelle Cronau
Alfred and Jacqueline Stewart
Karl Erickson
LeRoy and Gayle Wilson
Peggy and Dan Dixon
Pat and Lisa Goodwin
Henry and Priscilla Apfelbach
Bruce and Christine Baldwin
John Kryder
Mary, Gene and John Reed
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Franklin
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Nichols
Jane Galt
Elwood Wardlow
Dr. Rose Binns
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rutter
Winifred Macomber
Kathy and Bruce Helm
Moirra Knowlton

Dennis and Susan Bokemeier
Bonnie Fox
Sharon Neem
Mary Lynn Bryan
Carole and Galen Bertram
Hulone and Delbert Scheider
Dee and Bill Blomberg
Debra Maize
Jeff and Cathy Kurtz
Carolyn McKenna
Ruth Wardlow
Robert and Carla Baldwin
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Capes
Carol A. Russell
Darrell and Helen Mellom
Duane and Ruth Smith
Linda and Bradley Clowers
Charles Schmelzle
Joseph and Lisa Geyer
John and Jeanne Hurst
Gerald and Joyce Nethery
Jim and Gina Cole
Dick and Judy Wolfe
Peggy Schoonhoven
Fern Ottenhausen
Karleen Olson and family
Hal and Wendy Bade Gilpin
Narcissa Engle
Mary Ellyn Mau
Alan and Marilyn Youel
Roger and Jane Goodspeed
Theresa A. Morris
Jean Joyce
Merle and Ladona Wardlow
Elwood Wardlow
Carolyn Lamia
Paul Fry

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE FEBRUARY 2007 Cedarville Area Historical Society



Large Gifts Fund Research Center



*Rosabelle Cronau
2001 photo*



*Vernon Macomber
1961 photo*

Rapid completion of the Cedarville Area Historical Society library and research center on the second floor of the museum has been guaranteed with contributions to cover the basic construction costs by family and friends of Cedarville's Rosabelle Cronau. Mrs. Cronau, died December 26, 2006.

The board of the society voted at its January 9 meeting to name the facility The Rosabelle Cronau Research Center in honor of the woman who during her life quietly but strongly supported the historical society with generous financial gifts.

The research center, which will house the society's collection of photographs, letters, documents and books is expected to be available to scholars and the public by May 1.

The historical society also received a major gift in memory of Vernon Macomber, retired teacher in Lena, who died this summer at the age of 93. Presented to the society by Winifred Macomber, widow of Vernon, the funds will be used to purchase the many bookcases and filing cabinets needed to archive the artifacts.

A formal ceremony to acknowledge the two gifts and to unveil plaques identifying the benefactors of the research center will be scheduled after the facility is ready for public use.

Annual Meeting, Lunch Feb. 4, Turn to Page 7

Dates Set for 5 Evening Programs

Scheduling of this year's five Cedarville Area Historical Society Tuesday evening programs has been completed. Members are urged to mark these dates on their calendars.

All programs are in the museum and start at 7:30 p.m. Tickets — available at the door or at the museum beforehand — are \$2 for historical society members and \$3 for non-members.

Morris (Bud) Weiner on **June 26** will talk about Chief Blackhawk and the impact on Stephenson County of the Blackhawk War of the early 1830s. Weiner is well-known for his knowledge of Blackhawk and his involvement in the county.

On **July 24** Gary Raetz, Rock Run Country Historical Society president, and Ron Welling will comment on the first German immigrants in Stephenson County.

The presentation will include a short video of old pictures of the village and church that 15 German families started in 1847 along the Rock Run Creek between Davis and Rock City. There will also be stories related to the county German settlements.

On **August 7**, There will be an evening of personal stories of Cedarville residents who participated in the 1935 funeral of Jane Addams, the best known village citizen.

This program will take the form of a roundtable discussion with Paul Fry, Cedarville, the last surviving pallbearer, as the main participant. Jim Bade, society president, will act as moderator.

The museum's 1906 upright piano will get a workout on **September 11** when Albert and Bonnie Scheider, Orangeville, present a musical and narrative program related to schools. Albert, a piano teacher, will play early school songs. Bonnie will relate country school stories and conduct a "name that tune" musical, fun quiz about school subjects. The couple will also display their large school house collection.

The season closes on **October 9** with a special program on World War II as experienced by Cedarville residents who fought in the war and a walk down memory lane through the music of that time period.

LeRoy Wilson, veteran and head of the Cedarville American Legion, will be among several veterans who will relate their wartime experiences. The roundtable talk will be moderated by Jim Bade.

Following an intermission, Carole Bertram will play popular songs from that time period on the museum's upright piano.

A social hour will conclude the evening.



Emma and Burleigh Kahly and their only child, Marie, in an undated photo from the historical society collection.

(From previous page)

on my transportation business. My Dad was no help so I went out of business. I got the auto into the back yard on blocks. Laverne Cummins owned a Model A Ford and he took over my passengers as well as me.

I went into the navy a few months later. My Dad sold the Buick while I was in the Pacific. He got the money, but I had the experience of owning my first automobile.

Society Annual Meeting, Lunch Sunday, Feb. 4 In Community Center

The Cedarville Area Historical Society annual meeting and lunch will be Sunday, Feb. 4, in Cedarville's Jane Addams Community Center, W. Washington St.

The 11 a.m. meeting for society members will be in one of the former classrooms. The short session will include a financial report and the election of four directors.

The soup/salad/sandwich lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. will be in the gym and is open to members and the public. Tickets which are available at the door are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

**Cedarville Area Historical Society
P.O. Box 336
Cedarville, IL 61013**

**Jim Bade, president
Narcissa Engle, vice president
Ruth Smith, treasurer
Denise Rogers, secretary
Steve Myers, director
Moira Knowlton, director
Neal Scheider, director
Dave Kaiser, director
Mary Reed, director**

**The historical society is recognized by
the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) non profit
organization. Contributions are tax
deductible.**

Oh, the Joy of My First Automobile

By LeRoy Wilson

It happened during the summer of 1943. I was about to enter my senior year at Freeport High School and I wanted wheels.

I had to make some money so I set out to earn it. During the day, I worked for area farmers — shocking oats, driving a team for the threshing ring and putting up hay. Karl Erickson, Burleigh Kahly and Jim Ilgin were my employers. In the evening from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. I worked for Glen Bear at his grocery store on Cherry Street. Those were about 16 hour days, but I wanted a car bad.

These were war years and a family by the name of Jensen was leaving Cedarville to work in California in a defense plant. He owned a 1926 Buick and was selling the



vehicle along with his house furnishings.

The day of the sale I took my saved up roll of money and headed to the auction.

Flossie and Glen Bear in front of their grocery store

The bidding started on the Buick and my last bid was sixty dollars. There were no higher bids so I owned an automobile. It was about the size of a school bus.

The auctioneer asked if I could drive. I wanted to ask him, “Can a fish swim!” I said, “Yup.” I got into the car, started the engine and shifted into what was reverse on most autos. The 1926 Buicks had reverse where second was and second in place of reverse. I gunned it, let out the clutch and instead of backing up, I nearly ran over the auctioneer and a half dozen others. Eventually I got used to this strange arrangement along with the high gear and low gear being crossed.

In the fall I set out to get rich. When school started, I let kids know I would haul them to school for 10 cents each way. Twenty cents a day for five kids makes me a dollar a day and I had an automobile to drive. In those days there were no school buses. After finishing our two year high school in Cedarville, you could go on to either Orangeville or Freeport, but you furnished your own transportation.

My transportation business didn't last very long. It was during October or November I blew out a tire. A good used tire was going to cost me twelve dollars. I had spent the rest of my summer earnings. My profit margin was pretty small

(Continued on next page)



Harlan Corrie, left, and Duane Smith, both former art teachers in Freeport, examine several works depicting Cedarville scenes or events that will be displayed this year in the art gallery of the museum of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. About two dozen works will be arranged around the walls of the museum's south room.

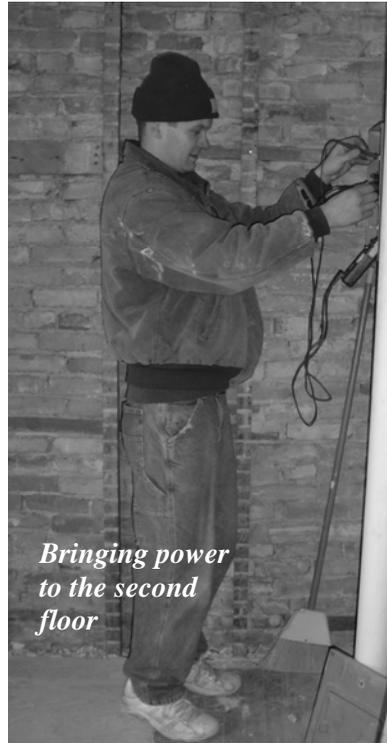
Paul Fry (far right) took 32 5th grade Orangeville pupils to the Cedarville Cemetery as part of a Jan. 4 visit to the Cedarville Museum which was arranged by Narcissa Engle, historical society, and Stacy Brown, teacher.



Mary Ellyn Mau, McConnell, (left) a charter member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, recently was the honored guest at a special meeting of the Lena Historical Society. Mrs. Mau, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on February 24, graciously answered the many questions put to her regarding local history. Narcissa Engle, vice president of the CAHS, was the official representative of the society at the meeting.

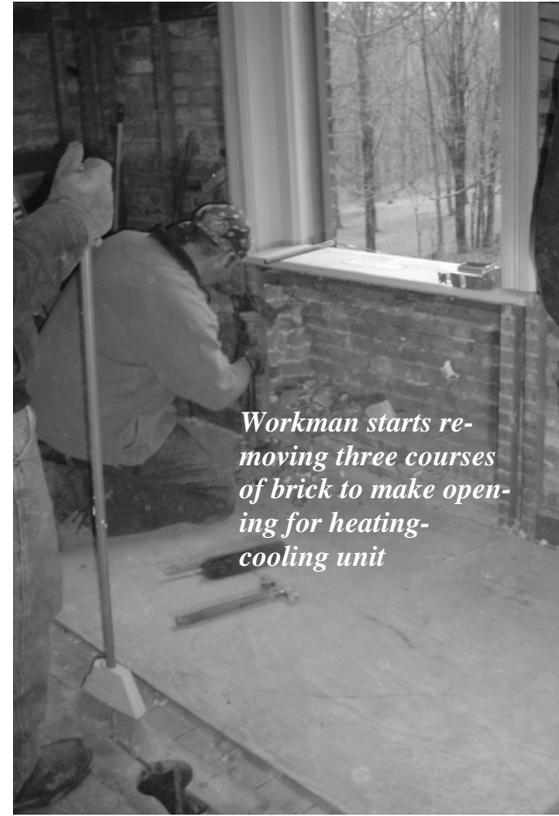


Harlan Corrie strips old lath and plaster from walls

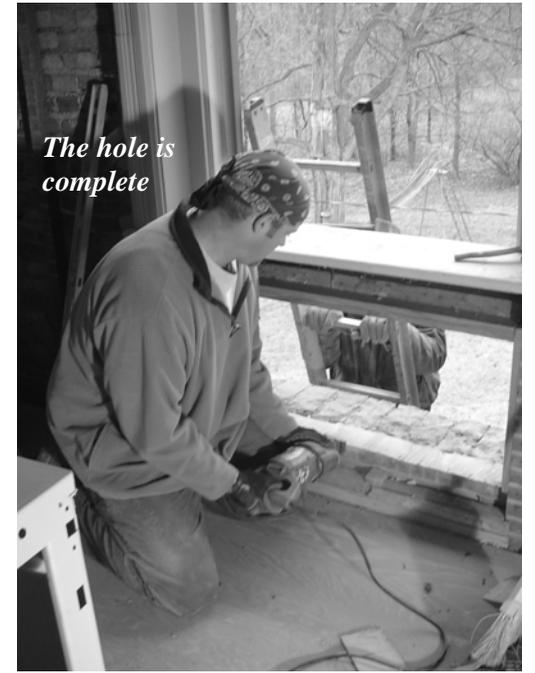


Bringing power to the second floor

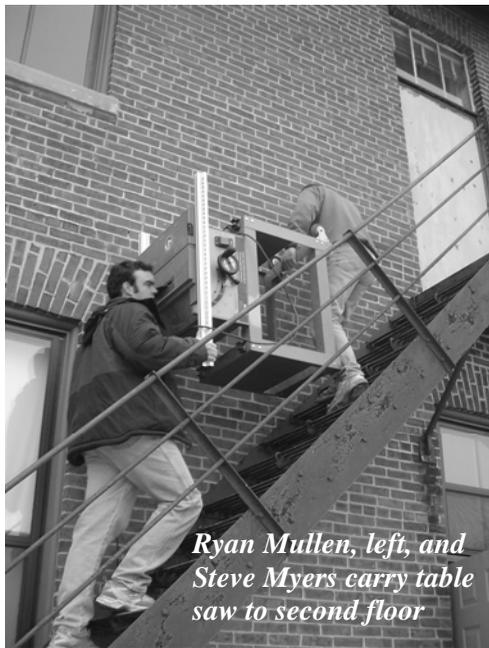
Museum Second Floor Research Center Off To A Fast Start



Workman starts removing three courses of brick to make opening for heating-cooling unit



The hole is complete



Ryan Mullen, left, and Steve Myers carry table saw to second floor



Steve Myers frames unused closet door before covering with drywall



Ryan Mullen, Steve Myers and his son Daniel install drywall



Sue Myers keeps construction dust at a minimum.