

Dave Kaiser Leaves Society Board; Gina Cole Appointed to Fill Vacancy



Two of many tasks undertaken by Dave during renovation of the 1889 school: Removing the decades-old heating plant; installing eighteen first floor storm windows that didn't want to fit.



Dave Kaiser, long a valuable and outstanding director of the Cedarville Area Historical Society has resigned from the board but will continue as a member and has promised to help the society as needed.

Gina Cole, a former board member, has been appointed to fill the remaining two years of Kaiser's term.

"It is not enough to say we will miss Dave," said Jim Bade president of the historical society.

Bade said Kaiser will especially be remembered for the energy and perseverance he exhibited over the last several years as the historical society worked to restore the 1889 former school building so it could be used as a museum.

"I vividly recall the scene a few years ago when I watched Dave tear out radiators and decades-old steam pipes associated with the building's former heating system so we could install a new central air and heating system," Bade said.

"And when I was stymied trying to fit eighteen new storm windows on the first floor, Dave came to the rescue with simple answers for what appeared to me to be complex problems. A great guy to have around," Bade concluded.

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

MARCH 2008

Cedarville Area Historical Society



Another Year of Membership Growth

The Cedarville Area Historical Society starts the 2008 season with the fourth straight year of membership growth.

With a 96 per cent renewal rate



Ever wonder how your historical society newsletter gets to you? Cedarville volunteer Ray Cronau collates and folds 500 copies and then addresses, applies postage, stuffs and seals almost 140 for mailing to members.

and twelve new members, the total membership stands at 138. Four years ago it was 65.

Since many of the memberships are for families, it is estimated the historical society serves between 350 and 375 persons.

Eighty of the 138 members are from Stephenson County, primarily Cedarville, Freeport and Lena. Another fifteen are from other Illinois towns.

The remaining 43 members live in nineteen U.S. states. Most of these are former Cedarville residents.

The states represented are: New York, Wisconsin, Georgia, Texas, Arizona, Florida, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Kansas, California, North Carolina, Virginia, Missouri, Washington, Oregon, Vermont, Minnesota, Michigan and Alabama.

Annual membership is \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a family.

Cedarville Area Historical Society Is Very Good But Is Still Lacking

*By Jim Bade, President
Cedarville Area Historical Society*

The accomplishments of the Cedarville Area Historical Society over the past three or four years sometimes amaze me.

The 1889 school building is gradually being transformed into a museum and meeting place for persons interested in area history. The museum exhibits improve each year as do the Tuesday evening programs. The community special events now number four each year rather

than two as in previous years.

All this has been possible because of the dedicated support — both financial and otherwise — of the society's members and the general public.

The success is wonderful, but there are glaring shortcomings in our operation.

We have done little of the basic historical research that should be expected of an organization such as ours.

Consider these "historical items" that have become a part of Cedarville folklore: And I cite only a few.

Jane Addams, one of the most influential women in American history, was born here and left her mark and her father, John Addams, was responsible for many of the village improvements.

True. But these people would have existed in a vacuum without others such as the Richarts, the Peppermans, the Shippys, the Clingmans, the Vores, the Bollmans etc. etc. These families and others like them were the day-to-day glue in Cedarville, but we have only surface knowledge of them — and some of that is wrong.

The first brick residence in the village



In the upper left hand corner is a fancier and larger version of the pot belly stove. This one was in Buckeye School in 1930, according to the late Ruth Wagner.

hugged up to that stove for the long winter months. Modesty was a problem we didn't have. The three girls and we two boys would undress around this stove and don our night clothes. We turned chairs and hung our clothes on the backs around the stove. When the stove went out during the night, the winter came in from outside. We slept under heavy home made comforters.

Grandpa would fire up the old stove early in the morning. Our clothes draped on the chairs around the stove would hopefully get warm. When we trooped down from upstairs in the morning, we dove for those warm clothes.

Splashing water on our face and washing our hands was an eye opener.

The water bucket usually was frozen over. I really upset my grandpa when I

Banged the glazed dipper on the ice to break through for water. I would chip the glaze of the dipper and this was a no no. He ordered the bucket set on the cook stove to partially melt the ice.

During my childhood, it was the survival of the fittest and the old pot belly did its part. In addition to the warmth it gave, it was a gathering place. It had a shiny ring around the top which, when struck with stickes, sounded like a cymbal. You could drape wet socks on the base to dry. When no one was looking you could melt crayons which eventually we were made to clean off.

Today we have central heating systems tucked out of sight with heat forced through registers. To really feel the warmth and glow on a cold winter day you need a stove with personality. I think back to the old pot belly stove.

**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
Mary Reed, Director
Neal Scheider, Director
Galen Bertram, Director
Gina Cole, Director*

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).

The Joy of the Pot Bellied Stove

By LeRoy Wilson

This winter has made me remember the pot belly stove that brought warmth to our family.

The process would start in the spring. Warm weather would banish the stove for the summer months. The stove along with the connecting stove pipe went into storage on the back porch.

Grandma Lutz gave the living room a thorough cleaning. While this was going on, I bet the large nine by twelve rug. With the help of grandpa and an uncle this rug was thrown over a line in the back yard. I was given a rug beater and told to beat all the dust from the rug. For the first half hour it was fun, then it became

work. Each time I told grandma it was clean, she would give a few test swings and I was ordered to keep beating.

Eventually the rug met the clean test and it was taken from the line and placed on the floor of the living room. Furniture was replaced and the living room was bright and cheerful for the summer.

Fall came and it was again time to install the old pot belly to its rightful place.

The rug was rolled up and placed in a back bedroom and the stove was set on its flat metal base in the center of the room. Pipes were connected and we were ready for winter.

Along with my sisters and cousins, we

Our photo files could not come up with a pot belly stove in a home, but here's one similar to the one mentioned by LeRoy that was used in Red Oak School. The photo is undated.



was built in 1851 with Canfield brick.

Presumably true but we know nothing about Canfield (or Canfil) except that his brickyard apparently was “a few miles west of Cedarville.” Shouldn’t we know more about this relatively important event and the people involved?

The museum has a U.S. flag from the Civil War period that reportedly was shot full of holes while hanging on Mill Street and then repaired by the wife of the owner of Richart’s store.

True according to the 1970 Stephenson County history book, but I don’t know of any contemporary accounts. And if it is true, who was the culprit?

There are many more “historical items” I could cite, but these three serve to illustrate my point.

We have done little of the basic historical research that should be expected of an organization such as ours.

Why haven’t we? Good question.

The answer is that despite the apparent interest in local history, the historical society has had difficulty finding persons who have enough curiosity to spend the time and energy good research requires.

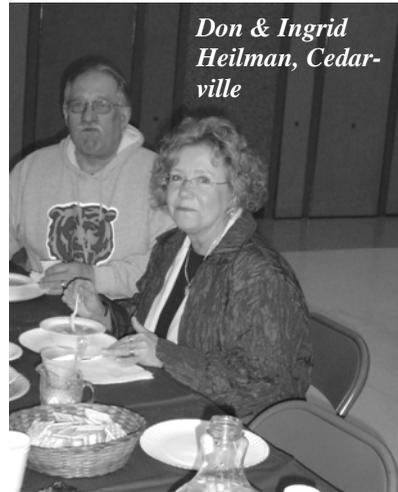
If anyone reading this is interested in helping fill this need, give me a phone call at 815-563-4485. I’ll welcome you with open arms.



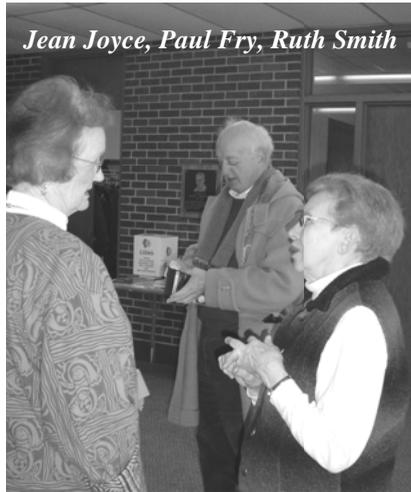
Bonnie Bade hangs oversized photograph of Suzy Beggan on the historical society’s new three-sided metal rack designed to publicize the society’s five 2008 Tuesday evening programs. The display greets Cedarville Museum visitors as soon as they step inside. Suzy’s program on sheep, wool and weaving — the first in the series — will be on June 17 at 7:30 p.m. in the museum. Don and Vickie Franz’s July Civil War program and Bobbie Edler’s August accordion entertainment are featured on the other two sides. Later these posters will publicize Jane Goodspeed’s September program on Marcet Haldeman-Julius, niece of Jane Addams, and the October original musical on Cedarville history. Tickets for the first four evenings are \$2 for members and \$3 for non-members. Tickets for the October musical are \$5.



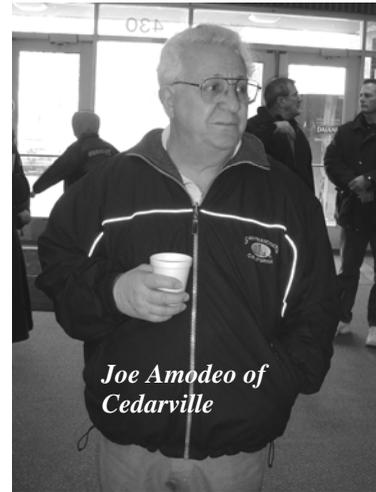
*Denise Rogers samples
Mary Reed's chili.*



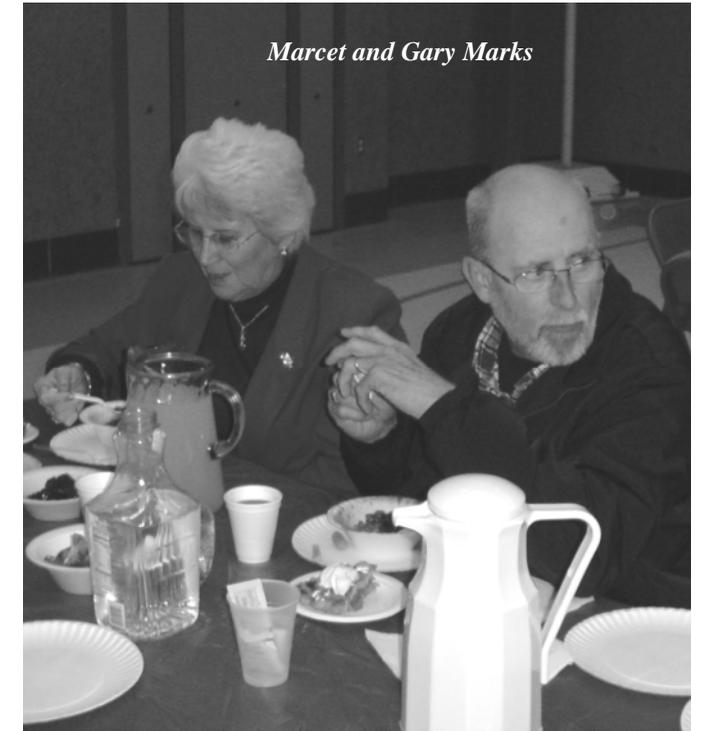
*Don & Ingrid
Heilman, Cedar-
ville*



Jean Joyce, Paul Fry, Ruth Smith



*Joe Amodeo of
Cedarville*



Marcet and Gary Marks

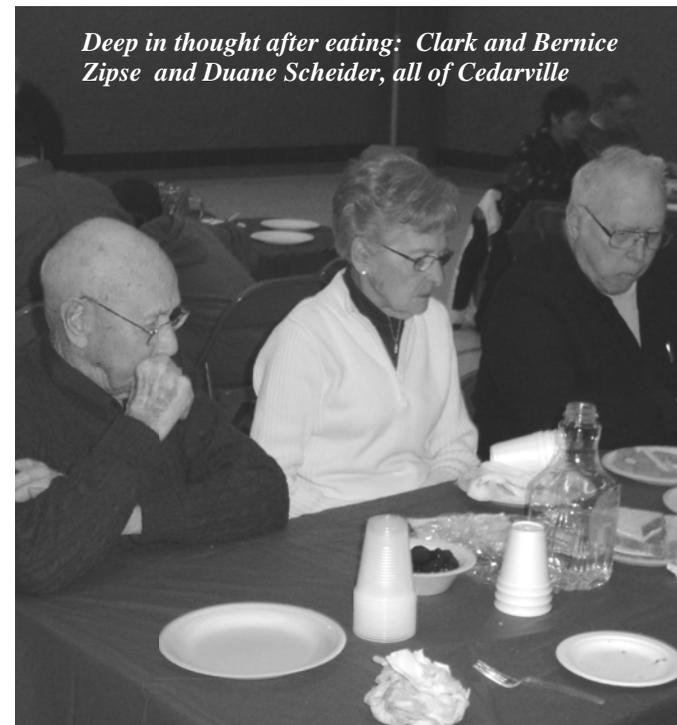
Record 125 Enjoy Historical Society February Soup/Chili/Sandwich Lunch



*Barbara Barkau
of Cedarville*



Dorcas Edwards Kuhlemeyer



*Deep in thought after eating: Clark and Bernice
Zipse and Duane Scheider, all of Cedarville*



*Cleanup time: James, Tommy, Jacob
Priewe of Freeport and Emily Myers
of Lena.*