Museum Research Center Adds 175 Addams-Related Books to Collection

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.

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.

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 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.

The Cedarville Area Historical Society will present a program on Marcet Haldeman-Julius on Tuesday, September 23, in the Cedarville Museum with Jane Goodspeed playing the role of Marcet.

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.

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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.

ECHOES OF CEDARVILLE

APRIL 2008

Cedarville Area Historical Society

36 Historical Society Volunteers To Welcome Visitors to Museum

Thirty six members of the Cedarville Area Historical Society will greet Cedarville Museum visitors on Saturday, May 3, and each Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. until the end of October.

Each of the hosts and hostesses will undergo an intensive orientation session several weeks before the museum opens so they will have a full understanding of the exhibits, the evening programs and the opportunities of the research center.

The volunteers include: Paul Fry, Sue Bokemeier, Carol, Meyers, Ramona Kryder, Charlotte Kaiser, Judy Corrie, Bill and Ann Tully, Moira Knowlton, Bobbie Edler, Lorraine Stabenow, Jean Joyce, Ladona Wardlow, Mary Reed, Dorothy Lasso, Denise Rogers, Jim Cole, Julie Scheider, Galen and Carol Bertram, and Rose Binns.

Also: Dorcas Kuhlemeyer, Diane Hagemann, Hulone Scheider, Peggy Schoenhoven, Sharon Barmore, Debbie Maize, Shirley Pick, Kathy Glaze, Narcissa Engle, Sue Handly, Dottie Emo, Linda Auman, Art Loveington and Frank Rutter.

Jim Bade, CAHS president, praised the dedication of the participating members.

Preview the museum’s new exhibits. Turn to pages 4, 5, 6 and 7.
Historical Society Starts Major Project To Archive Village Historic Documents

Cedarville village council minutes and ordinances dating back to 1885 will be digitally preserved through a project inaugurated this month by the Cedarville Area Historical Society.

First documents on the list of those to be preserved are the council minutes dating from 1893 to 1903. They are contained in a rapidly deteriorating leather bound book measuring eight by twelve and a half inches.

The entries — some in pencil, some in ink — are extremely faded and must be enhanced to be read after they have been scanned. Although the pages would snugly fit on an 8 1/2 by 11 sheet, the writing is being closely cropped and enlarged to fit on a legal sheet of paper.

When completed, the council minutes will be arranged chronologically and in separate files according to date. The results will be put on a CD that will permit the minutes to be printed in their entirety or as an individual meeting.

An early examination of the minutes indicates they concentrated on recording trustee attendance, the payment of bills, the appointment of persons to fill village positions and instructions to draft ordinances and the passage of the ordinances once they were drafted. The actual ordinance is apparently contained in a separate book. This book will be scanned later.

The village has a second book containing minutes of council meetings. It apparently ends in 1921, but it is not known at this time whether it is a continuation of the book now being scanned. It is not known whether later books exist; however, there must have been at least one prior to the one now being scanned because the first entry in that one speaks of the reading of the minutes of a previous meeting.

Minutes for November 4, 1895

Harlan checks for spelling and typographical errors on the first three panels of the new, nine panel Cedarville Civil War exhibit. This exhibit will complement the museum’s July 22 Civil War evening program presented by Don and Vickie Franz.

One of the more fascinating people associated with Cedarville is Marcet Haldeman-Julius, niece of Jane Addams. This exhibit adds to the story of Marcet that will be told by Jane Goodspeed during her September 23 evening program at the museum.
Four More Local Exhibits Featured in “08

The Rosalee Rockman art exhibit this year will probably draw an unusual amount of attention at the Cedarville Museum. But four other new displays of local history will be of great interest.

Harlan Corrie, Cedarville volunteer who has spent many hours working on the 2008 exhibits, said visitors will want to view the expanded display related to the Cedarville School; the exhibit on Marcey Halde-man-Julius, author and niece of Jane Addams; the detailed local Civil War story; and the mixed media history of Cedarville.

“Each year we are able to improve our exhibits because more local history artifacts are donated or loaned to the museum and we learn new display techniques,” Corrie added.

Left, above: Corrie views the Cedarville School exhibit that covers the entire east wall.

Left, below: The mixed media display includes paintings, 8 by 10 photographs and oversized historic photos.

Help, Help! We Need Your School Pictures

One of the exhibits at the Cedarville Museum that draws a lot of attention is the Cedarville School display with its many photographs of days gone by.

The Cedarville Area Historical Society would like to make more of these pictures available in the future, but we need the help of members.

If you have school photos of any kind, please contact Jim Bade, 815-563-4485. The photos will be scanned and returned.

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).
Harlan and Judy Corrie and Duane Smith (vest) selected pieces for the museum’s exhibit of works by the late Rosalee Rockman, Cedarville artist and Freeport art teacher.