Memorial Day by LeRoy

History says Cedarville has observed Memorial Day since Civil War days. It is my hope it will continue. The Cedarville Area Historical Society now adds its annual picnic and is working with us to perpetuate this important day. It’s in good hands.

Contributors were: Harlan Corrie; Mary, Gene and John Reed; Marian Fransen, Jim and Gina Cole; Paul Fry; Ken and Pam Rosmann; and Roger and Jane Goodspeed, all of Cedarville.

Also, Frank Rutter, Red Oak; Sharon and Rein Neen, Blaine, Wa.; Patricia Welty, Wchita, Ks.; Sheldon and Dorothy Domink, Galva, Il.; Gwen Beirmeister, Muskego, Wi.; Paula and Mike Charron, LaCrosse, Wi.; Wendy Bade Gilpin, Mundelein, Il.; Alan and

Memorial Day by LeRoy

(From the previous page)

thinning. We will be passing the torch before long.

The Cedarville Area Historical Society campaign to raise $4,500 to finish renovating the first floor north room of the 1889 school reached $4,915 in less than two months.

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(From the previous page)

ECHOES OF
CEDARVILLE
MAY 2005

New Museum Opens Memorial Day

The Cedarville Area Historical Society museum will open Monday, May 30, in its new location in the 1889 Cedarville School. The opening will coincide with the start of the traditional mid-day historical society picnic on the school grounds which immediately follows the village parade and Cedarville Cemetery ceremony.

The school is at the top of the hill on Second Street, several hundred yards west of Mill Street.

Correspondence can be directed to Cedarville Area Historical Society, P.O. Box 336, Cedarville, Ill. 61013 or bbade@ix.netcom.com. Our web page is http://www.uic.edu/jaddams/hull/cedarville.

Legion, Historical Society Host Memorial Day Parade, Picnic

The Cedarville Memorial Day parade will step off at 10 a.m., Monday, May 30, from in front of the telephone switch building on Mill Street, just south of Second Street.

As in the past, the parade has been organized by Cedarville’s American Legion Post 1224 under the direction of LeRoy Wilson. Traditionally the spectators become participants in the procession once it has started.

The marchers will stop at the Cedar Creek bridge for a prayer by Rev. Bill Blomberg, the casting of a bouquet of flowers into the creek and a rifle salute. Then the procession will proceed to the Cedarville Cemetery on Red Oak Road.
New Museum Opens Memorial Day

The museum artifacts and documents were moved over the past month to the school from their previous location in the 19th century jail on Cherry Street. Several new exhibits are being set up in the first floor north room of the school under the direction of Harlan Corrie and Duane Smith, historical society members and retired Freeport school district art instructors.

The historical society has been renovating the first floor of the 116-year-old building for the past year and a half. It now has new handicapped accessible bathrooms, a new drinking fountain, a new first floor heating and cooling plant, first floor storm windows, a new septic system, replicas of old school lights in the north room, repaired and repainted ceilings and walls in the north room, new blackboards in both rooms and refinished floors in the first floor north room.

Memorial Day Parade and Picnic

Rev. Bill Blomberg will offer a prayer and there will be a reading of the honor roll of veterans buried in the cemetery. This will be followed by a salute by the American Legion firing squad and taps by Bill Emo.

After the ceremony is concluded, the audience will be invited to visit the 1889 school on Second Street for the traditional picnic hosted by the historical society.

Back row left to right: --- ? Laborde, John Christen, George DeZell, Lloyd Hutmacher, Martin Hutmacher, Ray Bolender, Charles Kryder. Front row left to right: Clarence Kryder, Clarence Dwyer (?), Henry Taft, Howard Epley.

Memorial Day Parade and Picnic

Once the anticipated several hundred people are assembled in the cemetery, LeRoy Wilson will open the ceremony. His comments will be followed by the reading of the Gettysburg Address by Jim Bade, president of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Then there will be a violin selection by Dee Blomberg and the singing of “America the Beautiful” by the audience.

1889 Cedarville School as painted by Duane Smith of Freeport.

were: Donald Fink, Lloyd Hutmacher, Charles Kryder, Henry Taft, Ray Bolender and Frank Smith. The last two were navy veterans. There were more, but those are the ones I remember from my childhood.

The Cedarville American Legion Post 1224 was chartered March 18, 1953. From our formation, the Legion has assumed the leadership in the observance of Memorial Day. Flags are placed on the graves of all veterans in the Cedarville Cemetery. There are 56 Civil War veterans. There are also three from the Spanish American War, 28 from World War I, 48 from World War II, five from the Korean War, two from the Vietnam War and four peace time veterans. A total of 146.

We had more than 50 active members in our Legion post when it was formed. On Memorial Day we marched into the church service as a unit. We marched in after all were seated. Alfreda Zimmerman played selections of marches on the piano while we entered. No one could make a piano talk like Alfreda. After an inspiration speaker, we would form up for the march to the cemetery.

We have not changed our observance a great deal over the years. The church services and speeches have been eliminated. As the vets got older, we shortened the parade route. We formerly marched from the E.C.C. or Methodist churches. We also had bands. For many years the Dakota High School band played for us. Also fife and drum corps. We now use only a drummer. A muffled drum entering the cemetery is very solemn and impressive. My thoughts each year turn back some sixty odd years to the friends and relatives who did not make it back.

Our Legion post now is mainly veterans of World War II. Our ranks are
Memorial Day Then and Now
By LeRoy Wilson

When I was growing up, Memorial Day was called Decoration Day. It was a very meaningful day in my life and it still is.

My earliest recollection of Memorial Day in Cedarville had services held in what was called the Temple. The Temple stood where the E.C.C. Annex is now located. It was an impressive building. It had formerly been the Presbyterian Church.

Early on the morning of Memorial Day, ladies of the village would pick lilacs. My grandma always used copper per wash tubs. She filled those with the flowers. They were arranged in the Temple early before the service. They gave the entire sanctuary a wonderful smell. Later these flowers were used to decorate the graves of the veterans. All the children had poems to recite and songs to sing. It wasn’t a case of will you children do this? It was you children will do this.

To me the World War I vets were bigger than life. They always marched in their respective uniforms. My own experience was that after a few years out of the military our uniforms would no longer fit. These WW I guys kept trim. Some I can clearly remember.

Memorial Day 1964 or 1965 in front of Methodist Church on Mill Street. Left to right: Gordon Kuhn, Wayne Nelson, Bob Monahan, Gerry Bawinkle and Dutch Lenz. These men were members of Cedarville American Legion Post 1224 which was chartered March 13, 1953.

Historical Society Schedules Two Talks, Piano Program This Summer

The Cedarville Area Historical Society has scheduled three evening programs for its members and the public. Attendance at the 7:30 p.m. events will be by ticket only and they will be held in the first floor south room of the 1889 Cedarville School.

The first program will be a Tuesday, June 21, talk by Dr. Gordon Dammann, Lena dentist and president of the Civil War Medical Museum located in Frederick, Md. Dr. Dammann’s talk on Civil War medicine will feature slides.

On Wednesday, July 13, Carole Bertram will present a program of 1890 to 1910 popular songs. She will perform on the historical society’s old upright piano.

Paul Fry will talk on Tuesday, August 16. Mr. Fry is the author of “Generous Spirit”, the biography of his Aunt Mary Fry, a Cedarville resident who for many years was the companion of the second Mrs. John Addams, stepmother of Jane Addams.

Tickets for each event will be $2 for historical society members and $3 for non-members. Attendance will be limited to 60 persons for each event. Tickets will first be available at the Memorial Day picnic at the 1889 Cedarville School building.
**BIRTH OF A MUSEUM**

Volunteers, local businesses join to restore unused 1889 Cedarville School building

- Dave Kaiser installs new storm windows on first floor of building.
- Ryan Mullin sands north room birch floor prior to refinishing.
- Randy Nieman of Randy’s Electric installs one of eleven 4-unit floor outlets.
- Steve Myers sprays final coat of paint on walls and ceiling of north room.
- Fischer Excavating connects village water supply to the building.
- Bamberg Plumbing, Freeport, installs water meter in basement of school.

- Boettner Heating of Freeport.
- Darrell Baker repairs chalk tray under north room blackboard.

Northwest Concrete installs new septic system.

Harlan Corrie, Dave Kaiser demolish old heating plant so new system can be installed by …..

Randy Nieman of Randy’s Electric installs one of eleven 4-unit floor outlets.

Fischer Excavating connects village water supply to the building.

Bamberg Plumbing, Freeport, installs water meter in basement of school.