Uncovering the 1930’s and ‘40’s

Bob Bratley, Scioto Mills, provided these previously unknown photos.

Right: A 1947 picture of (l to r) the late Paul Kryder, LeRoy Wilson and Bob Bratley celebrating their impending release from military service.

Below: Max Fox in 1932 behind the counter of his Cherry Street “Bright Spot”, a combination small store, barber shop and card-playing haven. The building still exists as a garage.

The Cedarville Area Historical Society on Memorial Day formally dedicated the Rosabelle Cronau Research Center located on the second floor of the Cedarville Museum. The center, which will be available for Cedarville-related research, will house the historical society’s books, documents and photographs. It is named for the late Rosabelle Cronau, Cedarville, who took an avid interest in the work of the society. Members of her family and friends contributed the funds for construction. On the left is Ray Cronau, Rosabelle’s husband. On the right is Winifred Macomber, Lena, who contributed funds in memory of her late husband, Vernon, for purchase of filing cabinets and construction by Board Member Steve Myers of a 7 foot by 10 foot, 24 shelf oak bookcase.

Katie Myers Photo
Historical Society Evening Programs

Open with Talk on Chief Blackhawk

Morris (Bud) Wiener on Tuesday, June 26, will open the 2007 evening program series of the Cedarville Area Historical Society. Wiener of Oregon, Ill., will explore the personality and effect on Stephenson County of Chief Blackhawk, leader of the so-called Blackhawk War of the 1830’s.

The 7:30 p.m. program will be in the Cedarville Museum. Tickets are $2 for historical society members and $3 for non members. They are available at the museum or by calling 815-563-4485.

The Tennessee-born Wiener has lived in Illinois since 1963.

He is a faculty member in outdoor teacher education, College of Education, Northern Illinois University. He taught graduate and undergraduate courses and served as faculty chairman during his 1963 to 1994 tenure.

He and his wife have traveled extensively. He teaches a variety of classes for the Center for Learning in Retirement, Rockford, and for the Senior Center in Oregon. He has taught classes on the Blackhawk War at both facilities.

LeRoy and Ted

(from the previous page)

and sadly there is to this one. I think I was in the fourth or fifth grade when they sent Ted to what was called “a boy’s home.” I was told there was a boy’s home in Lincoln, Ill. This home had a large farm and the boys living there worked on the farm. If they were kind to him, I am sure Ted loved his new home.

The rest of the family moved away and I have never heard of them again.

A strong childhood memory.

Thanks for the Gifts

The Cedarville Area Historical Society this month received three gifts of historical artifacts from members and friends.

Bill Angle of Dakota, Stephenson County, brought us the abstracts of four county farms he once owned. The copies will be scanned and the originals returned to him.

Karl Erickson, Freeport, dropped off a very old cast iron “gadget” for manually cracking nuts, especially black walnuts.

Mrs. Tony Scialli, Cedarville, contributed a pair of old roller skates that were used by her mother-in-law, Lorene.

The historical society thanks all three.
My Childhood Memory of Ted

By LeRoy Wilson

When I think back to my childhood, I have strong memories of the kids I spent time with. I want to tell you about Ted. He has drifted in and out of my thoughts throughout my life.

Ted’s father rented one of my grandpa’s houses. It is the house just east of the present-day post office. Of course, that house has been remodeled and looked much different in my childhood.

Ted suffered from being mentally handicapped and he had difficulty learning, perhaps being unable to advance beyond the first grade. When we first became friends, I was a first grader and we got along fine. Ted was older than I and large for his age.

Ted had a great love of horses and farms in general. Cedarville is and was surrounded by farms. Ted made the rounds visiting them regularly, showing up at meal times. He always wanted to help in some way and would do any chore. Everyone in the area knew him and were kind to him.

Since my grandpa had a truck farm and three or four horses, Ted spent many hours with us. We had an old horse named Flory. Ted always wanted to ride the horses. One day he put his arms on old Flory’s back and leaped up to get on. Bad timing: Just as Ted leaped, Flory came down on Ted’s right foot. Since we never wore shoes in the summer, it snapped the foot bone and tore off Ted’s toe. It was the toe adjacent to the big toe.

I got him to grandma’s and she snipped off the remaining skin. Ted then had four toes on his right foot. He became very proud of that injury. When going to school, he rarely wore shoes in warm weather. He always extended that foot so all could see the missing toe.

Ted went to Cedarville School, but, as I said, he had difficulty learning. He remained in the first grade room for a number of years, but was so physically larger than the rest of the class they promoted him to the fourth and fifth grade room.

He could be disruptive, but we kids loved him. One day, for reasons known only to Ted, he came clumping into the classroom with an old pair of his mother’s high heeled shoes. We thought it was great, but the teacher made him get back to his bare feet.

Ted was never mean spirited except to his younger brother Boyd. Boyd brought out the mean spirit in me too. So I helped Ted whomp Boyd from time to time.

There has to be an ending to every story!

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Memorial Day 2007

Photos by Katie Myers and Jim Bade

Approaching the cemetery

LeRoy Wilson opens ceremony

Tom Garman reads names of veterans

Rifle salute

Our new arbor almost done

Great day, great lunch

How good it tastes on one of our new benches

Line up for the food

A somber moment

The Parade, the Ceremony, and the Picnic

Memorial Day 2007

Photos by Katie Myers and Jim Bade