The Changing Face Of Cherry Street

The discovery of several photographs — some taken as many as 100 years ago — are giving us new information regarding Cedarville’s Cherry Street store once owned by John Bollman and then Glen and Flossie Bear and finally Jesse and Marie Purdues. Photo (1) probably dates between 1903 and 1910 and shows John Bollman’s name over the door. The building, on the north side of the street, housed the original Henney Buggy Company factory until sometime in the 1870’s when another buggy manufacturing company occupied it. Bollman followed. This photo is in Addison Fulwider’s 1910 history of Stephenson County. Photo (2) — also dating between 1903 and 1910 and pictured on a 1911 postcard — shows the Bollman store on the south side of the street and next to Clint Fink’s house on the corner of Cherry and Cedar. It is believed Bollman started in this building and then moved to the other side of the street, but the date of the move is unknown. Photo (3) taken in 2006 shows the two buildings joined on the north side of the street. It is believed Bollman connected the two buildings, living in one part and operating his store in the other. Vacant since the late 1990’s when the Purdues ceased operating, the building is being remodeled for residential use.

Suzy Beggin to Spin and Weave
The County Wool Story June 17

Suzy Beggin, outstanding authority on sheep, wool and weaving, on June 17 will open the Cedarville Area Historical Society Tuesday evening program series.

Suzy, former director of the Stephenson County Historical Society, has appeared before many groups and is known for her vast knowledge of the wool industry from start to finish and her fascinating demonstrations.

The program, like all of them in this year’s series, will be at the Cedarville Museum and will start at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $2 for members of the historical society and $3 for non-members. Tickets will be available at the door.

Following the program there will be a social hour with complimentary refreshments.

The other four programs are: Don and Vickie Franz and the Civil War, Jul. 22; Bobbie Edler, folk songs on the accordion, Aug. 26; Jane Goodspeed as Marriet Haldeman-Julius, niece of Jane Adams, Sept. 23; and a not-so-serious Cedarville history musical, Oct. 14 and 15.
The Cedarville Area Historical Society and museum now has phone communication with the rest of the world. On April 14 a Verizon lineman (above) installed an underground phone line to the museum building. A few days later phone service was brought into the building by Steve Myers, a board member. The phone number is 815-563-4202. Only calls to Cedarville and Freeport can be made on the phone, but all incoming calls will be accepted. All calls will be answered by the volunteer museum host or hostess on Saturday and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., May through October. At other times an answering system will operate and most calls will be returned within 48 hours.

Second Casting Call For October Program

Time for all would-be theater stars to sign up for the not-so-serious Cedarville history semi-musical scheduled for Tuesday and Wednesday evening, October 14 and 15.

You don’t have to be able to sing (Think of Walter Huston and Rex Harrison). The director will take you if you can grunt and turn you into Broadway material.

If you have the nerve to face you peers, call Jim Bade, 815-563-4485, or the museum, 815-563-4202, and leave a message.

The Cedarville Area Historical Society P. O. Box 336 Cedarville, Il. 61013 Phone: 815-563-4202

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).

A few words of caution about the books. For older eyes, the typeface is a bit difficult to read and you really should use a magnifying glass for the footnotes. Also, the sentences, although well-crafted, are sometimes a bit cumbersome because of the writing style that was often used in the nineteenth century.

Oh, yes: These are not volumes that qualify as a weekend reading project. It could take days and days to go from cover to end piece. Fortunately, if you don’t have that much time, the index at the end of Volume Two will help you locate a particular topic of interest.

The museum’s research center is open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday from May through October or by appointment at other times.
Museum Research Center Adds 150-Year-Old Civil War History

By Jim Bade, President
Cedarville Area Historical Society

Historical society members with ancestors who fought in the Civil War must visit the Cedarville Museum research center to check out the rare, two volume edition of probably the first full history written about the bitter conflict.

Published in 1866 and 1868 under the title "Pictorial History of The Great Rebellion", the 836 pages, each measuring 11 by 16 inches, reflect a contemporary view of the war and its aftermath. The two leather-bound copies in the Rosa-belle Cronau Research Center are not reprints but original first editions written under the direction of Harper's Magazine and printed by a Chicago firm. The authors, Alfred H. Guernsey and Henry M. Alden, were writers for the magazine.

The two volumes are unquestionably "pictorial" in that they contain 998 lithographs, more than one for each page. The illustrations include 562 scenes, many of battles, 99 maps and 337 portraits. They were created by the excellent artists employed by Harpers, perhaps one of the premier publications at the time.

The first volume with 380 pages was started while the war was still in progress and ends in August, 1862. In the preface, written in May of 1866, the two authors confess that when the project was started, the outcome of the fighting was uncertain. The illustrations and text cover military, political and social issues. It is interesting that a full page portrait of Union General Ulysses S. Grant opens this volume while a smaller portrait of Abraham Lincoln is several pages later.

Four profusion crab apple trees were planted early in May along the east fence line of the Cedarville Museum property. They joined the four snow drift crab apple trees that were planted last year. The eight trees have a mixture of white and red blossoms in the spring and then they produce fruit. In the middle of the tree line, an arbor and bench flanked by climbing roses faces the museum’s east door. Jim Bade (above), president of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, had the dubious honor of digging the four holes, but he needed help lifting the heavy balled trees into the holes. The trees were part of a group donated to Cedarville by Commonwealth Edison Company as the firm’s commitment to Earth Day.

It took a little while, but the American flag that once flew in front of the former location of the Cedarville Museum on Cherry Street east of Mill Street has been relocated to the new museum building on West Second Street. The flag pole was originally installed at the Cherry Street location by Dennis Boke-meier, a member of the Cedarville Area Historical Society, shortly after the formation of the society in the 1970’s. The new location of the flag pole on the northwest corner of the new museum was chosen by Steve Myers, an historical society board member and retired Marine officer. He chose to install it at that site because the area is lighted at night, permitting the flying of the flag 24 hours a day.
Memorial Day Festivities
Draw Record Crowd of 200

Rehearsal time

The long march into the cemetery

LeRoy Wilson opens program

Nathan Myers and Gettysburg Address

Everyone joins the parade

There was plenty of food for everyone

Someone had a very sweet job.

All photos by Katie Myers

Keep eating, eating