Rockman Art Donated to Museum

Glen and Linda Auman, Freeport, have presented the Cedarville Area Historical Society and Museum four works created by the late Rosalee Rockman, Cedarville artist and Freeport High School art teacher.

Pictured are two paintings that are entitled “Toledo” and “Nephew Todd” and a ceramic jug. Not pictured is a mobile made of seven ceramic discs strung together. Miss Rockman, who lived and had a studio at Cedar Cliff, died in 1993.

Jane Addams Funeral Participants To Relate Experiences on August 7

Paul Fry, last surviving pallbearer, Peggy Miller Schoonhoven and Dorcas Edwards Kuhlemeyer will be among those featured August 7 in an open-ended roundtable discussion of their experiences as participants in the 1935 Cedarville funeral of Jane Addams. Others who were present on that day are expected to join the trio.

The program will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Cedarville Museum. Tickets are $2 for members of the Cedarville Area Historical Society and $3 for non-members and they can be purchased at the museum on weekends, at the Jane Addams Community Center in Cedarville, at the door or by calling 815-563-4485.

This will be the third of five Tuesday evening programs to be presented by the historical society. The remaining two will be September 11 and October 9.
The Little Things Count

The Cedarville Area Historical Society and its museum count on volunteers to maintain and improve the grounds and facilities. A few of those people are pictured here.

Grandpa had a truck garden farm of many acres. When I was big enough to pick up a potato, my days started at daylight and ended late in the evening alongside grandpa. There aren't many places much hotter than the sun beating down on a potato patch. Grandpa dug and I picked up and piled the potatoes. Earlier in the season, when I was hoeing those potato stalks, I used to think I should have chopped them all off.

In today’s world, when the temperatures start soaring into the nineties, we kind of head for shade or the air conditioner. My early recollection was you worked and “made hay” while the sun shined. You didn’t get out of the heat.

Then came the hot nights. Our house had a tin roof. The upstairs had rooms that were like ovens. No air conditioners in those days.

We would go outside with a light blanket and throw it on the ground in the back yard. There we spent the night sleeping with the biting bugs.

I spent some time in the Solomon Islands in the South Pacific during World War II. Some of the guys thought it was a tough place. I said, “Hell, you ought to spend a hot summer in Cedarville, Illinois.”

So that’s the way it was in Cedarville in the thirties. I can't think of any better time or place to have been.
Life with a Pennsylvania Dutchman

By LeRoy Wilson

As I mentioned in several previous articles, I was raised by my maternal grandparents, Joseph and Mabel Lutz. They were Pennsylvania Dutch and grandpa spoke the language when he got angry or when there was some one he could speak it with. I am not sure if it was Dutch or German. Maybe it was a mixture. This area was settled by the Pennsylvania Dutch so as I was growing up I listened to it often. My only regret is not attempting to learn the language myself.

I spent most of my childhood working alongside my grandpa. He was a very church going man, but when aggravated he resorted to his old language. These words I learned. I used to think one of the worst cuss words was “dunder blitzen” because grandpa shouted it whenever angry. Later in life I heard the poem A Christmas Carol and Santa hol-lered to his team, “Up Comet, up Cupid, up Dunder and Blitzen.” Damn, all those years I thought I had been swearing and all I was saying was “thunder and lightening.” I was forced to learn some new cuss words.

My grandfather was a very hard working man and he expected us kids to follow his ways. During the last hot spell we had in Cedarville, my thoughts returned to my labors with grandpa. Summertime was not always a time of carefree play.
Large Crowd Hears Raetz—Welling Story of Rock Run Germans

A near capacity audience attended the July 24 Cedarville Area Historical Society program on the 1847 mass migration of Germans from Lippe-Detmold to Epleyanna in the Rock Run Township area. The talk and video presentation was given by Gary Raetz, president of the Rock Run Country Historical Society, and Ron Welling Rock Run Township resident. During the 90 minute program, Raetz showed a short video produced by himself on Epleyanna’s history. Welling followed up with a discussion of the movement of the German families from Lippe-Detmold to the United States and Stephenson County, their life in their new environment and the decline of the settlement. The session was then opened up to the audience for their questions. As usual, the discussion continued during the social hour and refreshments that followed the formal program.