Barbershop Songs Return to Museum

The sweet songs with the close harmonies of the barbershop style Americans have learned to instantly recognize will again be heard in the Cedarville Museum on Tuesday evening, July 19, with the return of the foursome “One Quart Low.”

Last heard locally in 2012, the group has since changed its name from “Cadence” but still features the same performers.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m. in the museum’s second floor LeRoy Wilson Theater. A simple-to-operate elevator is available for physically handicapped visitors. Music season ticket holders will be admitted free. Individual performance tickets are $8 and can be purchased at the door or by calling Jim Bade, 815-563-4485.

As is the custom, free refreshments will be served after the hour-long performance.

“One Quart Low”
From left: Nate Hyland, Bart Macomber, Carl Heintz, Jerry Hyland
Full House Applauds Sound Of Swinging Bluegrass Five

More than 70 American music enthusiasts filled the Cedarville Museum’s LeRoy Wilson Theater on Tuesday night, June 21 to hear the Styles Junction band swing out with more than two dozen well-known and not so well-known bluegrass songs.

The state line area band of Vern Ellis, Mike August, Al Watson, Jeff Wagner and Ernest Saunders first performed at the museum in 2012.

Nikki, Caleb, and Grandma Bonnie Scheider

Bonnie Scheider and Carol Meyers found Marjorie Phillips a great story teller.

Peggy Reynolds, mother of Kathleen Glaze, and Nancy Jones, in light talk.

Karen Schoff and Dave Macomber in farm talk after the music

Al Scheider at the table

Paula Charron and Kathleen Glaze swap stories.
The Church House
As a Movable Object

By Jim Bade
CAFS President

We tend to think of the word “church” as almost synonymous with something that is very stable, rarely changing. That may be true if we equate the word with “religion” but not necessarily true with the word “building.” I learned that when I was gathering information for the Cedarville history class I co-taught this spring.

Cedarville church buildings have changed purpose, location and even disappeared.

The Methodists built their first church on Mill Street in 1850. It was replaced on the same site in 1886. In the middle 1960s, the church purchased 5.7 acres on Cedarville Road west of the village and constructed the current building. The 1886 building was sold and remodeled as a residence.

The Presbyterian Church was founded in 1856 but did not build in Cedarville on Oak and Cedar until 1876.

The Presbyterian church building was known for its high and imposing steeple. The church celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1905, but by 1923 the congregation left Cedarville and the building was sold to a Cedarville Methodist Church men’s organization that staged minstrel shows and sponsored dinners and other events. The steeple was torn down. There was a short lived tea room in the building in the middle 1940s and in 1948 it burned to the ground while being used by the Evangelical Church as a replacement for that church’s Harrison Street home that was also destroyed by fire less than a month before.

The Reformed Church that once stood on Cedar Street south of the Presbyterian building has an unusual history.

In 1851, George Ilgen, the original developer of Cedarville, either gave or sold two lots to the church for the purpose of building a church. The transaction also included an acre immediately west of what is now the Cedarville Museum for a “burying ground.” In 1851 there was a frame school building on the museum site. That cemetery eventually contained at least thirteen burials that were removed to the village cemetery on Red Oak Road in the years following the construction in 1889 of the two story school that is now the museum.

The story is that the body removal was prompted because some people in the village complained of a cemetery being at what was then the back door of the school. The story is questionable because the 1889 school replaced a similar school built there in 1853 and apparently the location of the burials didn’t bother anyone for 35 years. Although the bodies were removed, many of the monuments remained until at least the early 1940s when students used them as forts to ward off snowballs.

In 1917 the Reformed Church left Cedarville and the building on Cedar Street was sold to a non-profit group to be used as a “community center.” The former “burying ground” apparently went into limbo.

After almost fifty years of operation under several owners, the center closed its doors in 1967 and the village got the property. The former church was then sold to the Evangelical Church, torn down and the site is now part of the church’s parking lot. The penasance was moved across the street. The village acquired the former cemetery several years ago.

How did the Evangelical Church get to its present location that was once the site of the Presbyterian Church? It took a lot of moves.

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The village map to the right locates the four churches mentioned in this article. The square with “M” locates the 1850 and 1886 Methodist buildings; The square with “P” and “E” is Presbyterian 1876 and Evangelical 1948. The two squares with “E” are Evangelical in 1887 and 1893. The square with “R” is the Reformed Church 1851.
Making of Friday Night Movies

The free Friday night outdoor movies at the Cedarville Museum in June and July don’t just happen. They take a lot of planning, selecting and hard physical work. But thanks to Sue and Steve Myers and their crew — many of them from Freeport’s Priewe family — the classic films have delighted lawn chair audiences for the last eight years. Of course, the 50 cent pop corn, candy and soft drinks are an added delight. There are still five performances in 2016 so put your chairs in your car and show up. Bad weather? We move indoors.

Remaining Schedule

July 1: The Trouble with Angles
July 8: Hot Lead, Cold Feet with Don Knotts
July 15: The Glass Bottom Boat with Doris Day
July 22: The Scoutmaster
July 29: Annie
The Church House As Movable Object

(from page 4)

Some church records indicate the first Evangelical Church in Cedarville was a 40 by 50 foot brick structure built in 1856 on a site somewhere in the southeastern part of the village. Total cost was $3,000 “appropriately furnished including organ.”

With a growth in membership, the congregation in 1887 constructed a brick church on the east side of Harrison Street north of Cherry Street. Cost reportedly was $2,067. This was home for several years when a split in the national church forced the Cedarville congregation to lose this property. This building first became the home of a “garrison” of the Knights of the Globe, a fraternal organization, founded by Dr. Krape, a dentist of Freeport. Several years later he apparently lost control and the building was used for many years as a social hall with activities such as meetings, dinners and plays. For a time in the 1920s it housed the machinery of Cedarville’s short-lived electricity company. Then the structure fell apart and its bricks were appropriated by various persons. Today there is a residence on the two lots.

Forced to leave, the congregation in 1893 bought a site on the west side of Harrison Street south of Cherry Street. There they built a frame church. This building stood until December of 1948 when a fire consumed it. The congregation turned to the then vacant former Presbyterian Church building on Oak and Cedar for its new home. After four Sunday services that building also burned to the ground.

The Evangelical Church congregation recovered from these two disasters as their magnificent building on a previous church site attests.

I guess these stories show faith can endure, but don’t count on brick and mortar.

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