Free Friday Night Movies Start June 7

The 2019 season of free Friday night outdoor movies opens at the Cedarville Museum on June 7. The first film will be "His Girl Friday," the 1940 production starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell.

As in the past, popcorn, soft drinks, coffee and selections of candy will be offered in the museum for 50 cents each. On the left board member Sharon Barmore checks out the popcorn machine.

Movie viewers should bring their lawn chairs. The films will be shown inside the museum in the event of bad weather. The movies are the project of board vice president Steve Myers.

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Historic Cedarville House No More: Pg. 3
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Two New Acquisitions for Museum: Pg. 6
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The Caswell Sisters String Quartet: Pg. 8


The House That Musician Clint Built Sings No More

How likely is it that a man who started out as a teenage blacksmith will become a well known musician for three quarters of his life? Not very likely, but it happened to Cedarville’s Clinton Fink.

Born in 1862 at the beginning of the U.S. Civil War, Clinton worked in his father’s blacksmith shop on Mill and Cherry streets starting in 1878. Within a few years after that he was well known as a superb musician and the reputation continued until his death in 1946.

In 1889 Clint was married to the former Laura Clingman, daughter of Civil War veteran John Turner Clingman and his wife Sarah. Laura died in 1939.

The couple had six children, five sons and one daughter. They were Willard, George, Harry, Merrill, Fred and Bethel.

Clint was known as an instrumentalist — primarily he played the coronet — but he also sang in a male quartet. A January 30, 1917, Freeport newspaper article reported that he sang with William and Charles Frank and Prof. C. J. Blosch, then the school principal, at a ceremony honoring recently deceased Civil War veteran Henry Hockman.

Although some of Clint’s boys played in the their father’s bands, only one went on to pursue a professional music career. That was Harry who left Cedarville and moved to Chicago in his later life and played with several society dance bands, one with the imposing name of “Husk O’Hare’s Peacock Strutters of Chicago.”

Willard became an excellent photographer. Indeed, the historical society has a large collection of pictures he took early in the twentieth century.

Perhaps the best known of his sons to older members of the current generation is Fred, a minister in the Evangelical denomination. Fred died in 1992 at the age of 86.

Fink, who died in 1946 at the age of 83, was trained by his father in the late nineteenth century to be a blacksmith, but he is usually remembered as an excellent musician who organized and directed the Cedar Cliff Band and who was an active musician for sixty years.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING: The upscale house Clinton Fink built in the early 1890s on the northeast corner of Cherry and Cedar Streets was only rubble in a few hours in April 2019. Vacant for many years, the two story frame structure was last lived in by Bethel Penticoff, Fink’s only daughter. It is believed the owners of the property will build on the lot.
It may have rained on our parade, but Cedarville’s Memorial Day program honoring village veterans and the picnic lunch was a great success in the museum.

(l) Jacob Priewe, Freeport, student at Loras College, Dubuque, recites Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address; (r) Don Franz, CAHS board member, reads GAR Gen. John A. Logan’s 1868 order creating Decoration (Memorial) Day; (below) room-filled crowd was attentive. (All photos in newsletter by Lisa Goodwin)
Museum Receives Two More Pieces of History

The Cedarville Museum’s collection of local historical artifacts grew larger this month with the gift of two articles related to well-known Cedarville residents.

Duane Smith, former Cedarville resident, presented the museum with an 1880 style top hat once worn by Dr. Smith Thompson. Several years ago Smith lived in the house Thompson built on the northwest corner of Mill and Oak streets.

A little research of the band inside the hat showed that it had been sold to Dr. Thompson by Milo D. Chamberlin who had a retail clothing business on the corner of Stephenson and Chicago streets in Freeport. A native of the state of New York, Chamberlin moved to Freeport in 1853. He died in 1895.

The second item received by the museum was a very large framed 1910 Cedarville high school diploma issued to Hazel Winchell. At that time the local school had a two-year high school program. The diploma was signed by Francis Washington Clingman, board president, George Kryder, secretary, and Fletcher McDonald, new principal at the school.

The diploma came from CAHS member Rick Kahly, a grandson of Logan and Hazel Winchell Kahly. Ironically, last year the museum received a large 1910 class photograph featuring Hazel from Freeport’s Lois Thrasher, a daughter of Logan and Hazel. It was presented by Lois’s daughter, Pamela, obviously Rick’s cousin. Hazel’s parents were Frank and Mary Potts Winchell.

Stavrous and Saint Cyr
Fill Museum with Music

Stavrou and Saint Cyr
Seventy minutes of non-stop melodies

May 14 Art Round Table Sparks Lively Debate

Jim Bade and artists Duane Smith, Harlan Corrie, Roger Goodspeed, Dan Edler and Pam Barton.

Obviously Roger wants to make a point
Caswell Quartet Gets A Standing Ovation

Sellout Crowd on May 28

CAHS V.P. Steve Myers talks to Dan and Beth, parents of Caswell girls.

Annaliesa, Laura, Ella and Hannah Caswell

Carol Meyers, right, hostess for the evening, made sure there was plenty of food for the audience.

Annaliesa, Laura and Ella were all ears.

Accordionist Bobbie Edler, right, reminds listener that she and John Waelti will play at the museum on July 16.