

INKLINGS and IDLINGS

The Newsletter of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

313 East Third Street • Galesburg, Illinois 61401 • (309) 342-2361

Winter 2005

The Songbag Concert

To cheer up the gloomy days of winter we need music. The Spring Schedule of Songbag Concerts will begin Thursday, February 17, 2005. "Hammer and Pick" will perform at 7:00 p.m. in the Barn at the Carl Sandburg Historic Site, 313 East Third Street, Galesburg, Illinois. The Barn is a smoke-free and alcohol-free environment.

The trio is composed of Jon Wagner who plays hammer dulcimer and banjo as well as singing vocals. Jan Sams plays the bass and guitar and sings too. John Heasley is the third member and he plays guitar and sings.

Later concerts will take place on Thursday, March 17th, Thursday, April 21st and Thursday, May 19th. You might want to keep those dates free so you can attend.

A \$2 donation is appreciated and refreshments are served.

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Outta Site

I'm writing this column on January 29th, the day after our annual Penny Parade. The area schools which participated should be very proud as I am sure, simply by looking at the sheer volume of coins delivered by the schoolkids, that this will be a record-breaking

total. I believe the past "top dollar" income was around \$2,000. The following schools responded to the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association invitation: GALE, KING, NEILSON, SILAS WILLARD and STEELE. There may be other schools or individuals as yet "unbeknownst" that have donations for the coffers. I thank all the principals, teachers, librarians and children who participated in such an overwhelming manner this year. Also my gratitude extends to board member Pat Reyburn, who updated the addresses and appeal letters sent out the first part of December.



Association treasurer John Heasley did a great job musically entertaining the kids, as well as picking up the refreshments. I hope his back muscles are up to hauling all these pennies to the bank! My thanks also to Bert McElroy and Donna Vinyard for helping decorate and undecorate the Audio/Visual room in the Visitors' Center where the festivities occurred.

Proceeds from the Penny Parade have traditionally gone toward projects tangible or visible to the contributors. This is so the kids can readily identify what their pennies accomplished here at the Site. They can point to something and proudly state "I helped pay for that." Past accomplishments include the purchase of lighting for the interior of the Barn; installation of a brick walk from the Visitors' Center deck to the Barn, as well as the west walk to the Barn; and the installation of an arbor and pedestrian gate on the west side of the property, as well as re-laying the west (public) walk. We will, hopefully, be able to install permanent landscape lighting and landscape plantings on the borders of the Visitors' Center to Barn walks. Some special events held in the Barn are during the evening (the Songbag Concert Series, for instance), so lighting is a factor in safely guiding attendees to and from the Barn.

The annual statewide meeting of site managers was held in Springfield January 11-13, 2005. Many of us, including myself, met with the new Historic Site Superintendent, Paula Cross, for the first time. She is filling the position held for many years by Bob Coomer, who is now the Director of Historic Sites.

Budget and operational limitations continue to top the list of difficulties for our historic sites. Little can be done about these limitations, although a public petition by the Menard County Tourism Council was distributed to the sites. The petition requests reinstatement of the hours and funding that have been cut for operations since Fiscal Year 2003. The petition is available for public perusal and signing at all state historic sites. The petitions are to be returned by February 15, 2005.

Part of the agenda included a "hard hat tour" of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, which is scheduled for its official opening on Tuesday, April 19th. I'm certain the museum will be a major draw for the Springfield area. Hopefully, for the entire State of Illinois and its historic sites, as well.

– Steve Holden
Acting Site Manager

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Penny Parade More Successful Than Ever

As Steve Holden reported in the preceding article, the annual Penny Parade was held January 28, 2005, in the Visitors' Center. Five elementary schools participated, bringing their one-cent pieces to the Historic Site. There were baskets, jugs and boxes of pennies. One of the teachers told us there were 164 pennies in a pound. That adds up to a lot of weight for the improvements to Sandburg's birthplace.



As Steve also noted, last year a new brick walk was laid from the Visitors' Center patio to the Barn. This year's project will be adding lighting and landscaping along the sides of the

walkway. It is amazing what a load of pennies can do when they are combined. Many thanks to all the students, parents and teachers who contributed to the Parade.

No doubt you are wondering how much was taken in this year. The amount, in round numbers, is \$2,150, which is a record sum.

As a reward for their schools' efforts, the students enjoyed a film about Carl Sandburg, music by John Heasley and refreshments. Each youngster received a giant-size replica of the 1909 coin for which the Parade is named.

Included with each member's copy of this issue of *Inklings and Idlings* is a free oversized penny. Additional pennies can be purchased in the Museum Store at the Site for \$2.00, tax included.

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Was A Severe One

The Galesburg Daily Mail of February 13, 1894, reported on the blizzard that struck Galesburg the previous night. It was the worst storm of the season and blocked streets as well as railroad rights of way. Trains traveling from the east were on time, but those from the west were late by several hours.

Schools were open but only a few dedicated students appeared. The number of teachers on hand was not reported.

Many of the signs on storefronts were torn away by the high winds. Drifts on Main Street were as deep as three feet. The telephone company reported many lines were down.

The few days before the storm the weather

had been pleasant for the time of year. Then, the snow began to fall and the wind to howl. It was difficult for people and machines to get around the city.

The poor people of the city were severely affected by the storm. They needed coal to heat their homes and some were unable to get out for food. The City Poormaster made deliveries to quite a number of homes, but was able to serve only half of the need. Several travelers were snowbound in the city and received help as well.

Carl Sandburg remembered more than one occasion during his youth when the weather was unpleasant. He was among those "working poor" who didn't have galoshes or a warm coat and hat. His transportation was mostly by foot and he had to struggle through the snow to get to work.

When we complain about the winter weather today, we might think of Sandburg and the other residents of Galesburg in 1894.

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In Memory of Lincoln

The blizzard of February 13, 1894, received almost as much coverage in the newspapers as the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

Commemoration of Lincoln's birthday was uncommon until 1888. Several organizations began to pressure state legislatures to set aside February 12th as a legal holiday. Then, more cities and towns established formal ceremonies to honor the martyred president.

Galesburg had no special observance in 1894

although ministers of several churches preached sermons about the subject. The City of Springfield, Illinois, had no special commemoration either, and it was the "hometown" of Lincoln.

There was comment about the condition of the Lincoln Monument and Tomb in Springfield. Construction had been started in 1865 by a private organization, but funds were very slow coming. Almost thirty years later, it still wasn't completed and was beginning to fall into disrepair. There was a movement to ask the state legislature to take on the task of completing the monument.

Today, at great expense, an Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has been constructed in Springfield. However, several weeks ago leaks developed in the Tomb. It was not the result of poor maintenance, but rather was caused by the ravages of weather and time.

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Carl's 17th Birthday Memories

Congressman Philip Sidney Post died January 6, 1895. It was Carl Sandburg's seventeenth birthday.

Sandburg wrote about his memory of the event in *Always the Young Strangers*. He was the shoe shine boy in the barbershop of the Union Hotel. The hotel was located on the Public Square in Galesburg. The funeral was held January 9th and many dignitaries had come to the city to attend.

That day, Sandburg polished the footwear of four senators, eight congressmen and several mayors. He earned \$1.40 in tips. A nickel tip

was customary for a good shine, but Sandburg received several dimes and a few quarters on that occasion.

He reported his wrists were sore from slapping the rag across the shoes so many times. He finished the process by whisking the shoulders of each man's coat with a small brush.

Carl Sandburg had polished General Post's shoes more than one time in the past. He had assumed Post was just another politician. The General's obituary in the newspapers told the story of his service in the Civil War.

Philip S. Post entered the service as a second lieutenant in the Fiftieth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers in Galesburg. He rose quickly through the ranks and was made a brigadier general after the battle of Pea Ridge. Post was seriously wounded three times during the war. Nearly thirty years after the conclusion of the Civil War, he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

After the Civil War, Post was appointed Consul to Vienna. In 1874 he became Consul-General to Austria-Hungary. He resigned in 1879 and returned to Galesburg with his family. In 1886 he was elected to Congress from the Tenth District of Illinois by a margin of 29 votes. He was re-elected five more times with increasing margins each time.

In 1894 Post was re-elected to Congress by a margin of 13,000 votes. He had spent the holidays in Galesburg and returned to Washington in early 1895 to begin his sixth term. His unexpected death on January 6th came as a surprise to the people of Galesburg.

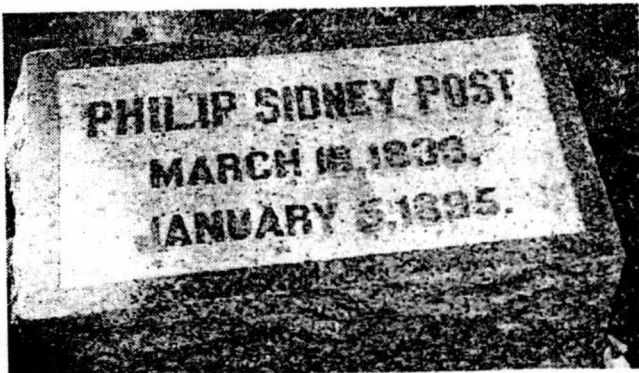
The next day a committee of local officials and businessmen was convened by Mayor

Forrest Cooke at the Courthouse to make plans for the funeral. Committees were appointed on music, program, invitations, entertaining the Congressional delegation and meeting the remains at the railroad depot.

The funeral train arrived at 4 a.m. on January 9th with the family and Congressional delegation. At 8 a.m. members of the Grand Army of the Republic escorted the body to the Courthouse. The rotunda was draped and flowers surrounded the casket. One of the Galesburg newspapers said the remains were in a "good state of preservation." Thousands of local residents passed by the casket.

At 1:30 the procession to the Presbyterian Church began. Attendance at the funeral was by invitation so the public could watch only the procession of important people. The church was filled with flowers and a large portrait of the general was draped in black. The newspaper listed prominent donors of floral arrangements in the church.

A double quartette sang "Unveil Thy Bosom, Faithful Lamb," "Nearer, My God, to Thee," and "Farewell" during the funeral. The procession then proceeded to Hope Cemetery for the burial. The hearse was drawn by six black horses. Company C of the Illinois National Guard and the Knox College Cadets fired three volleys in honor of the General.



The next day, January 10th, speculation in the newspapers was in full cry about Congressman Post's successor. In that respect, politics and politicians have not changed in the intervening 110 years.

The following Sunday, January 14th, comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic Post 45 in Galesburg held a memorial service in the Presbyterian Church. The next day, *The Mail* published a letter from Mrs. Cornelia Post to Mayor Cooke thanking him for the "elaborate funeral ceremonies" for her husband.

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Wrinklings & Wild Things

(The "Prairie Poets," Vachel Lindsay, Edgar Lee Masters and Carl Sandburg, were mutual friends, somewhat united by sharing recognition and publication in Harriet Monroe's periodical *Poetry a Magazine of Verse*. The relationship between Sandburg and Masters eventually deteriorated greatly, as can be seen in poems to [or about] Masters, published in *Billy Sunday and Other Poems*. This collection was not published until 1993. It was compiled and edited by George and Willene Hendrick. The following poem is the least vitriolic of Sandburg's writings on Masters found in the collection. Webster Ford was the pen name Masters used when writing *Spoon River Anthology*.—Steve Holden)

TO WEBSTER FORD

A man wrote two books.

One held in its covers the outside man whose name was on a Knox College diploma, who bought his clothes at Marshall Field's, had his name done by a sign

painter in gilt on an office door in a Loop skyscraper, and never did any damage to the code of morals set forth by the *Chicago Tribune*.

The other book held a naked man, the sheer brute under the clothes as he will be stripped at the Last Day, the inside man with red heartbeats that go on always ticking off life against the ribs.

Scratched into portraits, here are the villagers, all those who walked on Main Street, the folks he knew down on Illinois prairies where his grandmother raised eleven boys and life was a repetitive epic of corn and hogs.

The shadow of his soul touched the shadows of their souls as he loved them and his fingers knew something about the fine dust of their blood after they are dead and the silence of love and the strangeness of dreams that haunt their graves.

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Poetry, A Magazine of Verse

Steve Holden mentioned *Poetry, A Magazine of Verse* in the previous article. Here is some information about the periodical

Harriett Monroe founded *Poetry* in 1912 in Chicago. Her goal was to print the best poetry of the present time, to expand the audience for poetry and to pay the poets fairly. It is the oldest monthly publication devoted to verse.

The magazine published works of many of the writers who were to become well known in the early twentieth century. It played a crucial

role in the development of modern poetry. The correspondence between those poets and the editors of the magazine has been preserved at the University of Chicago. The letters show the process of getting things published. The poets demonstrated their happiness, anger and frustrations in those letters.

Carl Sandburg's wife, Paula, sent a number of his poems to Miss Monroe in the winter of 1914. Carl had been writing about Chicago, its people and happenings for some time, but eastern publishers weren't interested. The style of writing was new and creative. It didn't follow established ways of writing poetry. Many publishers weren't willing to take chances on publishing such strange stuff.

Miss Monroe chose nine of the poems to be published in the March 1904 issue of *Poetry*. She called them "Chicago Poems." Sandburg received \$70 which was the equivalent of three weeks' wages. Oh, there was a celebration at the Sandburg home! They later became friends with Miss Monroe and through her became acquainted with other poets of the period.

In 2003 *Poetry* received an endowment of a hundred million dollars from Ruth Lilly, a descendant of the founder of the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company in Indianapolis. Indiana University holds the papers of the magazine since 1960 because of Miss Lilly's generosity.

Interestingly, the only poem she had submitted to the magazine had been rejected. But she was impressed by the kindly and professional way it had been declined.

The magazine pays \$6 per line for each poem published and prints 300 poems a year from

the 90,000 submitted by writers from around the world. The chances of being published aren't much better today than they were nearly a hundred years ago.

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Potatoes

Carl Sandburg's father always planted a garden in the backyard as a way to provide food for his family on a limited income. They stored winter vegetables such as potatoes, rootabagas and turnips. The vegetables would keep through most of the winter if properly stored. Here are two recipes that might have been prepared using some of those stored vegetables.

Mashed Turnips

2 ½ cups cubed raw turnip (about 1 medium)
3 ½ cups cubed raw potato (about 4 medium)
1 ½ cup stock or water
1/3 cup milk
1 tablespoon butter
1 teaspoon sugar
½ teaspoon salt

Peel turnip removing all of the layer of yellow peel. Cube and measure. Cook in stock or water for about 15 minutes. Add the potato cubes and cook until tender; drain. Return to heat to dry off excess water being sure to shake pan so vegetables don't stick. Mash with the milk, butter, sugar and salt until smooth.

Makes about 4 servings

Potato Soup with Cheese

2 cups grated raw potato
½ cup grated cheese of choice
1 tablespoon flour
½ teaspoon salt
Dash of pepper
1 cup milk or cream
8 cups boiling water
2 cups bouillon
3 tablespoons butter
Chopped fresh parsley for garnish

Mix potatoes, cheese, flour, salt and pepper. Add enough milk or cream to make a thick paste. Add boiling water, bouillon and butter; simmer about 10 minutes. Ladle into soup bowls and sprinkle parsley on top.

Makes 8 servings

Note: If you prefer a stronger flavor, use sharp cheddar. The bouillon used can be chicken or beef, depending on your preference.

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Miss Lottie Goldquist

Carl Sandburg had many memories of Lottie Goldquist, his fifth grade teacher. She taught him a lot about Eugene Field, the poet, as well as an appreciation for education.

Her death was barely mentioned when she passed away March 27, 1926. The funeral notice stated she had died after a brief illness. The service was held at the First Methodist Church and she was buried in Hope Cemetery.

The death of her brother, Louis, provides a much more thorough obituary and information about the family.

The father, Frederick Goldquist, was an early settler of Galesburg. He worked as a caretaker at Knox College in the days when each classroom was heated with a stove. The mother, Fredericka Peterson, came to America with the first settlers of Bishop Hill, having lost several of her family members along the way.

Frederick died at an early age and left his wife and five young children. Those children had to work hard from childhood to survive. Mrs. Goldquist was widely known for her good deeds in the seventh ward as well as her work with Mrs. Mary Bickerdyke during the Civil War.

Frank was another child of the family. He became chief of the Galesburg Fire Department in the 1890s. He also followed the circus life as a ventriloquist, magician and side show manager.

Lottie taught in the Galesburg Public Schools for nearly fifty years.

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Just a Suggestion

Although the gift-giving holidays have passed, it may well be you have relatives or friends who have birthdays, anniversaries or other occasions special to them which should be commemorated with a present. The Museum Store in the Visitors' Center has a nice selection of books and other items your friends will enjoy. There are many volumes by and about Carl Sandburg, Galesburg and Illinois. Mugs, cards and a few items of clothing can also be found there.

Members of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association are given a 10% discount on their purchases.

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**Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association
331 East Third Street
Galesburg, Illinois 61401**

**For Members Only:
One Cent Piece Enclosed**

**A Reminder of Carl Sandburg's
Ode to the Penny**