

INKLINGS and IDLINGS

The Newsletter of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

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

Spring 2003

More New Friends

The Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association is happy to greet more new members. A warm welcome is extended to:

Honorable James Philip
M/M Tom (Judith) Wilson

If you have joined the Association recently, and your name is not listed above, please notify **Inklings and Idlings** of the omission so it may be rectified in the next issue.

* * *

Sandburg Days Festival

Carl Sandburg's home town is set to celebrate the 125th anniversary of his birth May 8 through 10, 2003, in Galesburg. The Historic Site, Seminary Street, Discovery Depot Children's Museum and the Orpheum Theater will be the venues of numerous activities and presentations.

The kickoff of the Festival will occur in the Barn at the Carl Sandburg Historic Site at 7:00 p.m. on May 8th. A combined folk concert and readings from the Sandburg literature will be presented. Hammer and Pick, a musical group composed of Jon Wagner, Jan Sams and John Heasley will perform the folk songs. Steve Holden, acting Site Manager will read poems and stories written by Carl Sandburg.

At 11 a.m. on May 10th, awards will

be presented for the poetry writing contest, jointly sponsored by Knox College, and at 11:30 a.m. the winners of the memoir writing contest will be recognized.

Elsewhere there will be music of several kinds, children's activities, a golf tournament, a history program, an awards program for photography and a birthday party on Seminary Street with cake and lemon ice cream.

Helga Sandburg, daughter of Carl Sandburg, will read poems from her new CD "From in the Dream" on the Seminary Street stage at noon on Saturday.

At the Orpheum Theater on Friday evening, there will be a multimedia presentation by David H.B. Drake. It will include audience participation singing and photographs of historic Illinois. On Saturday evening the Knox-Galesburg Symphony will honor mothers with music from the Big Band Era.

The e-mail address for the Festival is visitors@galesburg.org

Educational and recreational activities for all ages will be a hallmark of the festival. So, come, bring the entire family, and enjoy.

* * *

From the Acting Site Manager

Well, here it is, Springtime again. One of the two busiest times

(maintenance-wise) of the year. I truly appreciate the efforts of Marge and Helmut Krueger, Fred and Mary McGunnigal and Rex Cherrington who assisted with the Site's yard cleanup on Saturday, March 29th. The peonies and tulips are now showing their appreciation as well.

I also wish to thank the Association for proceeding with the first phase of landscaping for the Barn. This phase was to install brick walks from the Visitors' Center deck and from the west picket fence to the Barn. Money collected during this year's "Penny Parade" was designated by the Association for that purpose.

Ralston-Mangieri Lawn Center of Galesburg was contracted to do the work, and they have done a wonderful job. I look forward to doing more work with them in the future.

Again, I wish to thank Tom Schroeder and the City of Galesburg for the donation of the Purington Paver bricks used in the walks.

The entry porch steps and railings of the Visitors Center have been repaired or replaced by Jim Hollingsworth of Galesburg. He's the fellow that did such a great job replacing the boardwalk and deck at the Site last year.

Volunteer Harry Tillman has taken up the paint challenge here. He prepped and painted the front door and the front steps to the Visitors' Center. He is in the process of painting the picket fences. Any Tom Sawyers out there?

Good news! On April 29th I received word from Springfield that we do get our seasonal worker again this year. Kelly McGunnigal will join us again this summer. This means a big load off my shoulders. Welcome back, Kelly!

I'll be joining in with the group

"Hammer & Pick" for the folk concert kickoff of the Sandburg Days Festival at the Site, Thursday, May 8th at 7 p.m. I'll be reading from Carl Sandburg's autobiography and poetry. Maybe we should call ourselves "Hammer, Pick and Jaw."

- Steve Holden

* * *

To Our Regret, We Hardly Knew Her

Dorothy Davison Bowles was born May 13, 1916, in Henderson, Illinois, the daughter of Irving W. and Emma Nelson Davison. She married Clarence E. Bowles who preceded her in death. A son, David, and his family, two brothers and a sister survive her.

Mrs. Bowles was a licensed practical nurse and worked in hospitals and nursing homes in several cities, including Galesburg. Services were conducted in the First Baptist Church, Galesburg, after her death on March 26th, with burial in the Henderson Cemetery.

The family designated the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association to be the recipient of any memorials to be given in Mrs. Bowles' memory. A number of gifts have been received and are very much appreciated.

* * *

Carl Sandburg Days in Joliet

January 6th through 10th, 2003, the Carl Sandburg Elementary School in Joliet, Illinois, celebrated the 125th birthday of Carl Sandburg. The first grade studied the poems "Sky" and "Eyes." Second grade students got up-to-date on the "Pencils" poem. "Chair" kept the attention of third grade students and the fourth-graders wrote essays on "Toes" and

"Clock." The fifth grade authors worked on papers about "Moon Poems." They also created artistic works about "Necks," including that of Carl Sandburg.

During the week, members of the school board and administrative staff read stories written by Carl Sandburg to each of the classes. On the actual birthday date, January 6th, everyone enjoyed treats of the edible kind.

The principal of Carl Sandburg Elementary School prepared a color printout with digital photographs of the bulletin boards and projects of the students. A copy is available for viewing at the Visitors' Center if you would like to see it.

We congratulate the Carl Sandburg Elementary School on their enthusiastic study of the poet for which their school is named. On page 8 is a photograph of one of the bulletin boards created for Carl Sandburg Days in Joliet.

* * *

Wrinklings & Wild Things

(The work speaketh for itself--Steve Holden)

THE ABRACADABRA BOYS

The abracadabra boys--have they been in the stacks and cloisters? Have they picked up languages from throwing into chow mein poems?

Have they been to a sea of jargons and brought back jargons? Their salutations go: Who cometh? and, It ith I cometh.

They know postures from impostures, pistils from pustules, to hear them tell it. They foregather and make

pitty pat with each other in Latin and in their private pig Latin, very ofay.

They give with passwords. "Who cometh?" "A kumquat cometh." "And how cometh the kumquat?" "On an abbadabba, ancient and honorable sire, ever and ever on a abbadabba."

Do they have fun? Sure--their fun is being what they are, like our fun is being what we are--only they are more sorry for us being what we are than we are for them being what they are.

Pointing at you, at us, at the rabble, they sigh and say, these abracadabra boys, "They lack jargons. They fail to distinguish between pustules and pistils. They knoweth not how the kumquat cometh."

(From the "New Section" of the *Complete Poems*, p. 643, by Carl Sandburg.)

* * *

A Lincoln Salute

(Dr. Richard Sandburg wrote this reminiscence of a posthumous award given to Carl Sandburg.)

The American Hungarian Studies Foundation based in Chicago presents several awards annually in various classifications. One is the Abraham Lincoln salute to an outstanding American.

In 1967, shortly after Carl Sandburg's death, I received a phone call from Dr. August Molnar, president of the Foundation, saying that Carl Sandburg was selected for the Lincoln Award for his monumental *The Prairie Years* and *The War Years* biography of our 16th president.

Dr. Molnar said he had contacted Lilian Sandburg, widow of Carl, and

asked her to come to Chicago to receive the award. Mrs. Sandburg said she would be unable to travel at this time and recommended me to attend the event. I assured him that I would be honored to represent the family.

Dr. Molnar said my wife and daughter should be included as well, noting that it was a formal affair in the Gold Coast Room of the Drake Hotel. We were to be attired in full formal dress.

My wife and daughter were assigned to a large table which included a bevy of attractive ladies reminding me of the Gabor sisters. I was at the head table with Elmer Gertz, a prominent attorney and author, who gave the official response to the award.

I was presented a life-size head of Lincoln which was made of bronze and extremely heavy. Another recipient was Dr. Geza DeTakets, a physician from Skokie, who had treated a Dr. Ross Hunt of Belvidere, Illinois, the husband of one of our dearest friends and a patient of mine. Dr. Hunt had an incurable condition, and after he died, his widow was never charged for the services rendered. When I told Mrs. Hunt of attending the banquet, she gave me a check for \$200, which I presented to the banquet committee.

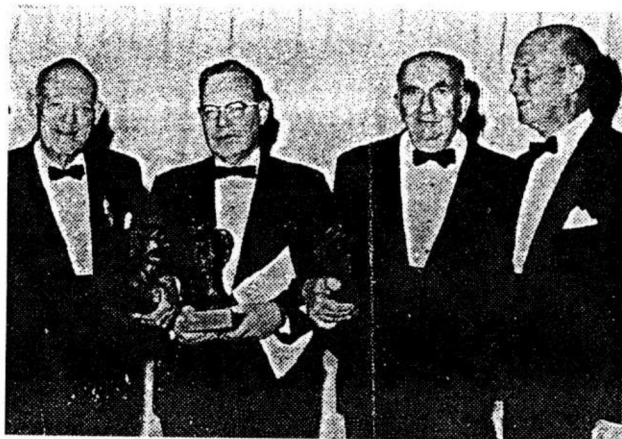
Upon receiving the bust of Lincoln, I made a brief acknowledgement and Mr. Gertz gave an elaborate and complimentary testimony to Carl.

Following the ceremony the media took several pictures of Mr. Gertz, the committee and me.

The master of ceremonies was Mr. Louis Szathmary, who was the chef and owner of The Bakery restaurant on Lincoln Avenue in Chicago. Mr. Szathmary wrote a number of books on cooking, was a radio broadcaster and

a lecturer on subjects as diverse as convenience foods and restaurant critics. He was also active in a campaign in the mid-1970s to persuade the U.S. Department of Labor to elevate chefs from the category of "domestic" laborers. He might be said to be the first of the celebrity chefs in this country.

The Associated Press carried stories of the affair which appeared in many of the major newspapers across the country along with pictures.



Abraham Lincoln Awardees for 1967 in Chicago joined by Leo Schoenhofen, (right), president of the Container Corporation of America: (left to right) Dr. Geza de Takats, Dr. Richard Sandburg and Albert Kner.

All in all, it was an interesting and exciting evening to be rubbing elbows with the various dignitaries and to represent Carl Sandburg as well.

- Dr. Richard Sandburg

* * *

Memorial Day 1887

The Grand Army of the Republic was organized in Decatur, Illinois, in 1866. Dr. B.F. Stephenson of Springfield and a few other officers

hoped to establish an organization to honor and benefit veterans from the Civil War. It became a patriotic, fraternal and charitable organization composed of men who had served in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Galesburg Post 45 of the G.A.R. was chartered July 26, 1876. Members of the post took responsibility for organizing Memorial Day events each year.

In 1887, Post 45 held a concert on May 6th at the skating rink to raise money to cover their Memorial Day expenses. Instrumental and vocal selections were performed by local musicians. Thomas Ryan, a member of the Post, played his clarinet and **The Republican-Register** reported he had "lost none of his skill and power with advancing years." Mr. Ryan was recalled by the audience for an encore.

During the intermission a solid gold Past Commander badge was presented to General P.S. Post who had just completed his term as Commander of the Illinois Department of the Grand Army of the Republic. Philip Sidney Post was commissioned a second lieutenant in the 59th Regiment of Illinois Volunteers during the Civil War. He was brevetted a brigadier general in 1864. He was elected to four terms in the U.S. Congress beginning in 1887.

General Post was surprised, to say the least. The newspaper reported that the badge cost \$100. The audience was delighted with the presentation to a local resident.

At 2 o'clock sharp on May 30th, the procession traversed Main Street from Kellogg Street to Hope Cemetery. The Galesburg Police Department, with buttonhole bouquets on their jackets, led the parade followed by the Galesburg Marine Band, members of the Illinois

National Guard, the Knox College Cadets, members of the G.A.R. and its affiliated organizations and school children carrying flowers to scatter on the graves. The Galesburg Fire Department paraded all of its equipment decorated with flowers. Mayor D.W. Aldrich, the city councilmen and the speaker of the day rode in carriages. Citizens in carriages brought up the rear of the procession.

After the graves were decorated, a program was given in the Knox College wigwam. Band and vocal music preceded the oration of the day by Honorable E.C. Conger of Iowa. The Congressman had been born in Knox County in 1843 and enlisted in the 102nd Regiment during the Civil War.

Afterward, the Post members conducted a ritual service at the soldiers' lot in Hope Cemetery and fired a salute.

According to the newspaper, throngs of Galesburg residents, dressed in their best clothes, were on hand to witness the parade on Main Street. All businesses were closed for the duration of the ceremonies. A shower had fallen late in the morning which cooled the air and settled the dust. Many members of the public wore white flowers on their breasts as a sign of respect.

The Sandburg family knew many of the veterans who belonged to the G.A.R. Perhaps members of the family were among those on Main Street to watch the Memorial Day parade. Certainly a nine year old boy like Carl Sandburg could not have stayed away from such a spectacle.

* * *

Daily Hints for Housekeepers

The Galesburg Republican-Register of May 8, 1897, printed a column of

menu suggestions and recipes for the next two days which were Sunday and Monday.

The Sunday breakfast consisted of sliced oranges, granola and cream, frizzled beef, corn oysters, baked potatoes, warmed rolls and coffee.

In our time, granola would be served with fat-free milk most likely. The frizzled beef would probably be a thinly sliced meat which might be dried or cured rather than fresh. It was cooked until it was crisp. Corn oysters were a kind of fritter or small pancake made with canned or fresh corn cut off the cob. We don't know what the diners might have put on their baked potatoes.

By contrast, Carl Sandburg wrote in his autobiography **Always the Young Strangers**, that his mother prepared a breakfast of buckwheat cakes, fried side pork, applesauce or prunes and coffee for him at 5:30 in the morning before he went off to help deliver milk.

Dinner was served in the middle of the day and the menu included cream of watercress soup, baked loin of veal, spiced currants, asparagus on toast, lettuce and radishes, quirked potatoes, orange jelly and white cake.

Several of the items on the menu took advantage of the spring season. Watercress grew in those creeks with continuously running water. They could be found in many places in the northern half of Illinois. The asparagus bed in the backyard was probably ready for picking. And, asparagus eating was considered something of a spring tonic. In many kitchens the asparagus was cleaned, cut into small pieces and heated in milk or cream with butter and salt and pepper until it was tender. Then it was spooned over slices of toasted bread.

We know that Carl's father, August Sandburg, cultivated a garden in the backyard of his home so spring menus surely included some of the aforementioned early-growing vegetables.

The orange jelly on the menu was the equivalent of today's "Jello." We haven't been able to discover the meaning of the word quirked so we don't know what was done to the potatoes. Dried fruits of all kinds were frequently stewed with water and flavored with spices such as cinnamon and cloves.

The evening meal was light by comparison to the meals earlier in the day. It included rusks, crackers and cheese, canned raspberries, milk and tea.

* * *

The World's Columbian Exposition

The World's Columbian Exposition was scheduled to open on Chicago's lakefront May 1st, 1893. During the six-month-long run of the fair, more than 27.5 million people entered the grounds and responded with awe and enthusiasm.

The fair was meant to show the rest of the country and the world that Chicago had survived the fire of 1871 and had become a center of commercial and artistic activity.

Many communities in the Midwest provided exhibits and expertise for the displays and activities at the fair. Seven hundred Galesburg public school children created examples of their school work. These were bound into volumes which were sent to the fair for showing.

The April 4, 1893, issue of **The Republican-Register** reported the work of the students was on display at the high school. The second floor

hallway was filled with eight tables on which the works of each grade were displayed. Photographs of the members in each class were included.

The work covered the subjects of geography, zoology, natural philosophy, drawing, penmanship and manual training. An array of pieces of furniture were also in the exhibit. The newspaper mentioned a dresser by Edwin Scott, a hall rack by Ralph Roodstrum, a writing desk by Charles Redebaugh and a table by John Bridge. All the pieces of furniture were made of oak and heavily carved.

D.V. Purington, president of the Purington Paving Brick Company of Galesburg, had proposed an exhibit of the different styles of brick paving at the World's Columbian Exposition. **The Republican-Register** said "This is a matter in which our citizens can well afford to take a personal interest and encourage. The splendid brick factories are advertising Galesburg as nothing else is. It is hoped that the plan will be perfected at an early date, that the whole world may have an opportunity to see in useful combinations, from raw to perfected materials, the products of our brick yards."

There were many "firsts" at the fair, including the huge Ferris Wheel invented by George Washington Gale Ferris, a descendant of one of Galesburg's founders, "The Pledge of Allegiance," shredded wheat and Cracker Jack. Carl Sandburg surely heard and read of all these wonders. He couldn't afford to go to the marvelous exposition, but he knew as much about it as any other Galesburger.

* * *

She Is Seventy-One

At the age of eleven Carl Sandburg

began delivering **The Republican-Register** to the large homes on North Prairie and North Cherry Streets. He carried fifty to sixty newspapers each day and took home a silver quarter for the week's work.

Delivery boys were given a free newspaper each day. They could read it, take it home for their family members to read or sell it. Carl Sandburg became an avid newspaper reader. Perhaps he took time to read the following article about Queen Victoria in the May 24, 1890, issue of **The Republican-Register**. Victoria had been on the throne since 1837 and most people had known no other king or queen of England.

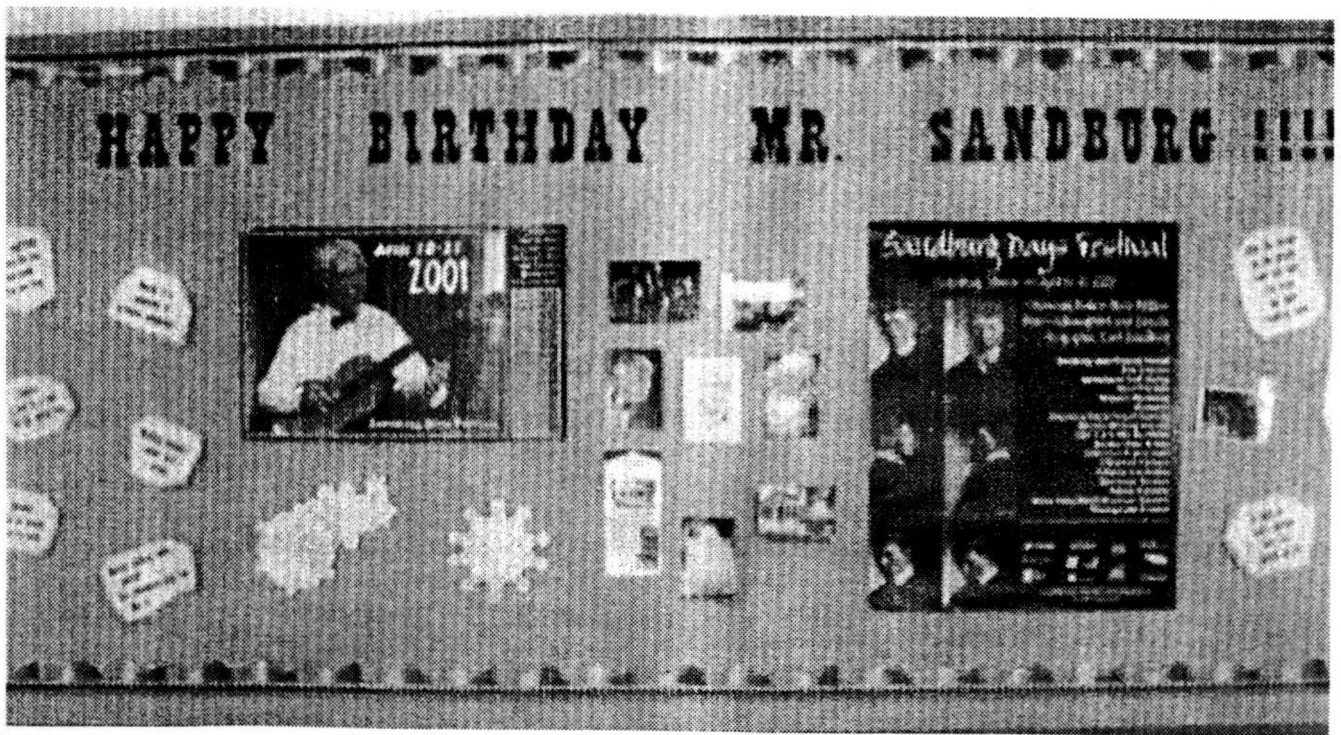
"LONDON, May 22--Flags were flying and church bells ringing all over the United Kingdom yesterday, and in many of the country districts the day was observed as a general holiday. All this was in celebration of the fact that on Saturday next Queen Victoria reaches the 71st anniversary of her birth, the observance taking place three days in advance of the date by royal command. Her Majesty spent the day quietly at Windsor Castle, surrounded by all the members of her family now on this side of the channel. Last night she gave a dinner party and a ball was given at Buckingham palace. Many telgrams of congratulation were received at Windsor from different parts of this country and the continent and numerous loyal banquets took place in the large commercial centers last night."

* * *

Don't forget!

**Carl Sandburg Days
Festival**

May 8-10, 2003
Galesburg, Illinois



One of the many bulletin boards at Carl Sandburg Elementary School, Joliet, Illinois, during its Carl Sandburg Days.

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