

# INKLINGS and IDLINGS

## The Newsletter of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

313 East Third Street • Galesburg, Illinois 61401 • (309) 342-2361 • [www.sandburg.org](http://www.sandburg.org)

*Winter, 2007*

### **A Few More Friends**

We are always happy to be able to welcome new members to our ranks.

Joining the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association are:

Grace Case  
Susan Miller Janssen  
Sunny Moorhusen

We hope they will be able to be frequent visitors to the Site and to participate in its activities.

The Association has members across the country and one in Sweden. Anyone interested in the life and writings of Carl Sandburg is welcome to become a member. The dues are \$10 for individuals and \$20 for a family.

For additional information, please write to the Association at 313 East Third Street, Galesburg, IL 61401.

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### **Songbag Concerts**

The schedule of Songbag Concerts began again on February 15<sup>th</sup> with Larry Penn. He has visited the Site many times and audiences always enjoyed his music. Each concert begins at 7 p.m. in the Barn, 313 East Third Street, in Galesburg and light refreshments are served afterwards. A wholesome atmosphere prevails.

A two dollar contribution will be welcomed, but it is not required.

The schedule for the rest of the winter and spring is as follows:

March 15—Doug and Bonnie Miller from the Folklore Village in Dodgeville, Wisconsin  
April 19—Chris Valillo  
May 17—Lee Murdock

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### **Sandburg Days Festival**

The 2007 Sandburg Days Festival will be held April 26 through 28. Members of the Galesburg community will join together for the 12<sup>th</sup> annual celebration of the life and legacy of Galesburg native, two-time Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and Lincoln biographer, Carl Sandburg.

The Festival will feature three days of literary, music, history and children's events. Activities include a Festival Kickoff with a folk music concert at the Sandburg State Historic Site, a writer's workshop, poetry contest, music from David H.B Drake and the Rootabaga Jammers, a photograph contest and children's activities.

One of this year's Festival highlights will be a visit by a special guest, Helga Sandburg Crile, Carl Sandburg's youngest daughter. She is also an author and poet. She will be honored at a special reception on Saturday evening at the Kensington prior to the concert by the award-winning Knox/Galesburg Symphony at the Orpheum

Theater.

The Carl Sandburg Historic Site, located in the heart of Galesburg, is the Sandburg Days Festival headquarters. At the Site you can pick up maps and brochures and get information about Sandburg and Galesburg, as well as attend the Festival Kickoff Concert.

The following article contains information about an interesting new feature of the Festival.

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### **Sandburg Days Festival For the Mind**

As noted in the preceding article, the annual Sandburg Days Festival will be held April 26 through 28. But, before then, there will be "The Big Read," beginning March 16<sup>th</sup>. It is meant to engage as many people as possible in reading the same book. The National Endowment for the Arts provides funding for local organizations to encourage the reading of American literature.

The book selected for reading is *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck who was a contemporary of Carl Sandburg. It is the story of the Joad family and their experiences during the Great Depression. Reading the book with a group has the advantage of sharing ideas and experiences, becoming better acquainted with our national history and appreciating the lives of those who lived through that period.

Individuals are encouraged to organize a group of friends or neighbors to read the book and discuss it together. Readers' Groups will receive a CD giving background information.

Books may be purchased by mail from Carl Sandburg College, 2400 Tom L. Wilson Drive, Galesburg, IL 61401. Individual books are \$15

and group rates are available. Checks should be made to "Sandburg Days Festival" with a memo to "Big Read."

On March 16<sup>th</sup> the film "The Grapes of Wrath" will be shown at the Orpheum Theater. On March 20<sup>th</sup>, March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup> discussions of the book will be held at the Galesburg Public Library. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, Semenya McCord will give a concert, "Journey into Jazz," at the Orpheum Theater featuring jazz music that was created in the 1930s.

The Big Read has been coordinated locally by Gary Tomlin, the executive director of the Festival. He can be e-mailed at [sandburgdays@yahoo.com](mailto:sandburgdays@yahoo.com).

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### **Penny Parade**

The Annual Penny Parade was held at the Carl Sandburg Historic Site on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. Third and fourth graders from Silas Willard and Gale Schools participated in the program.

The Penny Parade gives area schools an opportunity to teach students about Carl Sandburg's life and works. They collect pennies which are used to make improvements to the Site.

Steve Holden, Site Manager, reported that the pennies from last year's Penny Parade had been used to install a new sound system in the Barn at the Site. It has already proved its worth to visitors. He emphasized that the pennies are always used for some permanent improvement at the Site. These have included brick sidewalks, a picket fence and other additions to the Sandburg birthplace. That way, the students will always know they contributed to the enhancement of the facilities.

The Penny Parade gets its name from the fact that

Carl Sandburg's first writing about Abraham Lincoln was a newspaper article. It honored the occasion of the introduction of the Lincoln penny by the United States Mint in 1909.

The children who attended were served light refreshments and each was given an activities workbook and a giant replica penny bearing the 1909 date.

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### **Oh, Valentine**

It isn't known whether Carl Sandburg, as a boy, gave a Valentine to any girl. But, he was attracted to the feminine kind. His efforts weren't exactly recognized or reciprocated until many years later.

As a boy, Carl Sandburg had "crushes" on several girls. Most of the time, they were unaware of his interest in them. He was especially smitten with one in particular. She did not return his feelings.

He had long suspected that, but he learned it definitely on a long walk. He had gone to a revival meeting at the Knox Street Congregational Church. He saw her there, and offered to see her home. She acquiesced to his suggestion, and they set off.

Her home was fourteen blocks distant, and it seemed a longer journey than that to Sandburg. He attempted a number of conversational gambits. He said it was a nice night. He remarked the weather had been pleasant. He asserted one of the singers at the revival had been good. He declared the wooden sidewalk was rough. To all of those observations, she answered only "Yes," and nothing more.

In desperation he asked if her father enjoyed being a freight train conductor for the C.B. & Q. Railroad. She indicated that he did, but she did not elaborate.

When they arrived at her home, Sandberg bid her a good night and departed. He did not even wait to make sure she had made it to her front door. Afterward, he still adored her secretly, but he knew nothing would come of it. They were not even good company, so anything like romance was out of the question.

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### **Who Was Otto Harbach?**

The theater in the Fine Arts Center at Knox College is named for Otto A. Harbach. He graduated in 1895 and went on to be a well-known librettist and songwriter.

Otto Harbach was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, August 14, 1873. His parents had emigrated from Denmark in 1863. The family was musically inclined and Otto learned to play his father's violin. He played with his brothers in a small orchestra they had formed.

One of his teachers, who was a graduate of Knox College, encouraged Otto to enroll in the school, but he had little money. To pay for his train fare to Galesburg, he accompanied a shipment of sheep to Omaha, Nebraska. He later said he had to throw away his suit because it was "too sheepish." During his college years, he cared for cows, horses and pigs belonging to faculty members, to earn his room and board.

During his college course, Harbach had great success as an orator as is detailed in the following article. He considered a career in law, but didn't have the financial wherewithall to continue his studies. He taught oratory and English at Whitman College in the state of Washington, while also earning a Master's degree from Knox College. In 1901 Harbach moved to New York City to attend Columbia University. He had decided to become a college English professor.



Due to some eye problems because of the large amounts of reading required he changed course and began a career in advertising. He also tried newspaper reporting. During this period he met Karl Hoschna and they began to collaborate on songs for vaudeville acts. This was so successful that Harbach decided to make it his full-time work.

In the next thirty years, beginning in 1907, Harbach wrote about forty plays and collaborated with Jerome Kern, Victor Herbert, Sigmund Romberg, George Gershwin, Oscar Hammerstein II and others. He also wrote about a thousand songs.

Carl Sandburg and Otto Harbach didn't meet until 1939. The Knox Club of New York was having a party at Delmonico's. Harbach had written a one-act play titled "The Baffling Eyes of Youth." It contained a scene in which the ghosts of Newton Bateman and Abraham Lincoln had a conversation about Sandburg's biography of Lincoln. Apparently, it stirred much sentiment within the Sandburg breast.



HON. NEWTON BATEMAN

Otto Harbach was a strong supporter of Knox College and over the years contributed a considerable amount of money to the school. *The Register-Mail* reported at the time of his death that he had given \$81,000 (in 2005 dollars that would be nearly a half million dollars). Harbach was an honorary trustee and often returned to Galesburg for commencement and other functions. He last

visited the campus in 1958 to participate in the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Centennial.

Otto Harbach died January 24, 1963, in his home in Manhattan at the age of 89.

Some of the songs Harbach wrote may still reside in the farther reaches of your memory: "Smoke Gets in Your Eyes," "Cuddle Up a Little Closer," "Girl of My Dreams," "The Night was Made for Love" and "Indian Love Call."

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### **When the Name "Orator" Was Exciting**

Some people might say that "raising a ruckus" or celebrating a victory in noisy fashion was a modern invention. This passage from *Always the Young Strangers* by Carl Sandburg illustrates that the behavior of young people doesn't change much over time.

"One June night in the year of 1895 the town of Galesburg was, as people said, 'turned upside down.' Church bells and the Knox College bell rang all night. You could hear gunshots. Cannon cracked and boomed. Fireworks sprayed the sky and firecrackers snapped. Railroad-engine whistles tooted. City and farm boys rampaged around bonfires on the campus and in the streets. Glee clubs sang and wild yells came on the air from before midnight till past daybreak. You could hear voices getting hoarse from saying 'Hurrah for Knox!' followed by 'Hurrah for Harbach!' We knew what Knox was, but what was this Harbach? For those who hadn't heard the news, it was there the next day in the *Republican-Register* and the *Daily Mail*.

"A Knox student, Otto Harbach of Salt Lake City, Utah, after winning first place in an oratorical contest at Knox had gone on to win a state contest

and again to win in an Interstate Intercollegiate contest held in the Auditorium in Galesburg. Harbach of Knox won the high medal, the nice money, the sweepstakes. The Knox Silver Cornet Band, the Glee Club, and a wild mob followed the students who hauled Harbach to the campus on their shoulders. With songs, bells, yells, bonfires, they not only made the welkin ring but they swept the deck and threw the broom in the sea in so far as that could be done in a prairie town.

"Not until forty-four years later did I meet Harbach....He told me that in faraway Utah he had heard of Lincoln and Knox being linked, that something of the portentous Lincoln shadow lingered there, so he picked Knox as the college he would work his way through.

"Harbach was a member of the Knox Club of New York, which was putting on a party at Delmonico's on this evening when I first met him. And it was in the heart of Harbach to throw in with a one-act play that went straight back to boys and girls, moonlight on the campus, dreams and the fathomless heart of youth. He placed the scene in the east doorway of Old Main. Knoxville, Lombard, Old Newton Bateman, young John Finley, each name had its meaning to the Knox Club. In one scene Harbach had the ghosts of Bateman and Lincoln in a conversation about my Lincoln book. I had trouble with my eyes....

"Harbach titled his little play *The Baffling Eyes of Youth*, a phrase from an ode I read in 1937 at a rededication of Old Main at Knox...."

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### A Tribune Reminiscence

On January 7, 2007, the *Chicago Tribune Magazine* featured a photograph of Carl Sandburg seated among a group of Lane Tech High School students. He had appeared at the school as part of

their Swedish Pioneer Day, June 6, 1953. The students were dressed in traditional costumes and Carl appears in his guitar and bow tie.

The photograph, from the Tribune's archives, illustrates the poet in his accustomed way of conducting his readings and lectures. He always sang a few folk songs accompanying himself on the guitar. He started collecting folk songs during his days as a hobo.

A couple of other pieces of information were included in the article. Supposedly "The Blue Tail Fly" was Abraham Lincoln's favorite song and Thomas Lincoln, father of Abraham, was born on January 6, 1778, a hundred years before Carl Sandburg. An interesting coincidence.

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### Theodore Thomas

On March 11, 1904, *The Daily Republican-Register* reported the Chicago Orchestra under the baton of Theodore Thomas would appear at a concert in Galesburg. The Orchestra was on a two-week tour of cities in Illinois and Indiana. The newspaper reported that requests for tickets were coming in from all the towns around Galesburg.

The sixty musicians, along with the conductor and soloists, were due to arrive in Galesburg on March 15<sup>th</sup> on a special train over the Burlington. The newspaper commented this was the "highest paid body of musicians in the world" and "tonight's concert will mark a new epoch in Galesburg's musical history."

There was no further comment in the newspaper after the concert in the Auditorium. The concert surely must have been a success as Theodore Thomas was one of the outstanding conductors of his time and founder of what is known today as

the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Christian Friedrich Theodore Thomas was born October 11, 1835, in Esens, East Friesland, of German parents. His father was a violinist and began teaching young Theodore to play that instrument. At the age of ten, Thomas came to America with his parents. He became famous as a boy violinist. At the age of 15 he went on a concert tour of the South. He wrote in his biography "I do not remember taking anything with me but my fiddle, my little box of clothing, and some posters I had had printed, announcing a concert by 'Master T.T.' I kept a supply of these posters in my trunk, and when I had no money I first established permission to use the dining hall of a hotel for a concert, and then I went around on the day before the concert took place and put up my posters with tacks. When the time came for the concert arrived, I would stand at the door of the hall and take the money until I concluded that my audience was about gathered, after which I would go to the front of the hall, unpack my violin, and begin the concert."

Theodore Thomas spent the rest of his life playing music for the public. He organized several orchestras and toured the United States many times.

He designed programs which put the best music in the first or second part of the program and filled in the third part with popular pieces. He knew his audiences would learn to prefer the good music if they heard it a number of times. He played Beethoven's "Fifth Symphony" frequently and gradually acquainted his audiences with Beethoven's "Eighth Symphony." When he felt his audiences were completely familiar with a composition, he would then introduce a new one, just a bit more difficult.

Theodore Thomas felt strongly that the members of the orchestra should play together exclusively, save for teaching, to provide a consistent sound and quality of performance.

In 1889 Thomas came to Chicago to give a series of summer concerts as he had for several years. A group of wealthy Chicagoans promised to support the organization of a Chicago orchestra, if Maestro Thomas would lead it.

He accepted the proposition, and in October, 1890, he conducted the first program of the Chicago Orchestra. Later, its name was changed to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

In 1902, Maestro Thomas suggested a fundraising campaign to build a permanent home for the Orchestra. Such a thing had never been done, but \$750,000 was raised to build Orchestra Hall on South Michigan Avenue. Contributions came in large and small denominations from Chicago's teachers, laborers and lovers of classical music. The hall was dedicated in December, 1904, with Theodore Thomas proudly conducting the orchestra.

Three weeks later Maestro Thomas died of pneumonia. Two memorial concerts were given by the orchestra: one for subscribers and one for contributors and the general public.

Thomas' repertoire embraced about a thousand compositions. His musical library was valued at \$300,000 (in today's dollars that would be more than \$6 million) at the time of his death. It included original scores of Wagner, Liszt and others. Most of it went to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

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### **Pancakes**

Pancakes come in all sizes and thicknesses. They are an easily prepared food that lend themselves to meals at any time of day and with a variety of accompaniments.



Carl Sandburg's mother always prepared a good breakfast for her children and husband. She knew a filling morning meal would sustain them for the work of the day. Pancakes were a frequent item on the family menu.

During his hobo days, Carl Sandburg must have eaten pancakes. In mining and logging camps, they were called "flannel cakes" because they looked similar to the flannel shirts the men wore. In the logging camps they were called "flat cars" after the type of railroad cars used to haul lumber. The hobo camps were no different.

The ancient Romans ate their pancakes with pepper and honey. Eighteenth century Englishmen liked to have wine or brandy added to their pancakes. Many European countries served pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Lent begins. A French chef invented Crepes Suzette, thin sweet pancakes rolled or folded with orange sauce and flamed with curacao. It is the epitome of luxurious desserts.

In this country, the Jamestown residents of 1607 learned to make cornmeal cakes from the Indians as did the Pilgrims in New England. The Dutch who had settled on the island later called Manhattan, brought their buckwheat cakes with them and called the food "pannekoeken."

By the 1870s Americans were calling the griddle-cooked pieces of dough flapjacks, flannel cakes or pancakes. The first commercial pancake mix was introduced in 1889 by Chris L. Rutt and Charles S. Underwood in St. Louis. It was eventually named "Aunt Jemima" after a minstrel show song.

Harold Washington, the late Mayor of Chicago, said "You're in a bad way if you can't make Aunt Jemima pancakes. They practically make themselves." In other words, you don't need to go hungry, there is always Aunt Jemima.

Today we can go to restaurants which specialize in serving pancakes with everything from bacon to

ice cream and many other ingredients in between.

The Swedish people have their own ideas about pancakes. Here are two versions, griddle-cooked and oven-baked.

#### Swedish Pancakes

2 eggs  
3 cups milk  
1 1/3 cups all purpose flour  
1 tablespoon sugar  
1/2 teaspoon salt

Whisk the eggs and add the milk, flour, sugar and salt gradually. Heat griddle to a moderate temperature and brush with melted butter. Pour batter onto griddle to form the size of pancakes you prefer, 2 to 4 tablespoons per pancake. Turn to brown second side after several minutes. Roll up and serve hot with jam or syrup.

Makes about 12 thin pancakes

#### Baked Pancake

2 eggs  
2 1/2 cups milk, divided  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 teaspoons sugar  
1 1/2 cups all purpose flour

Beat eggs with 1 cup of the milk until well blended. Add salt, sugar and flour and beat until smooth. Stir in remainder of the milk. Let stand for 10 to 15 minutes. Butter a 10 inch cast iron skillet. Stir batter and pour into the skillet. Bake in a preheated 400 degrees F. oven for 30 minutes, or until the pancake is browned and puffy. Serve at once with jam or fresh fruit.

Makes 4 generous servings

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## Founders' Day

For 170 years Knox College has been celebrating Founders' Day. On February 15, 1894, *The Galesburg Daily Mail* reported on the 57<sup>th</sup> observance of that anniversary. At that time there were still a few pioneers surviving who remembered the beginnings of the college.

The ceremonies began with a procession from Alumni Hall to the Old First Church at 9:30 in the morning. The Knox College Cadet Band led with music. The trustees, faculty and students followed, the senior class leading the lower classes. There was cheering, shouting of the Knox yell and flags waving including the old gold and royal purple standard of Knox.

President John H. Finley presided from the platform which had been decorated with flowers, plants and flags. He introduced W. Selden Gale, the son of the founder of Galesburg, who described the group which met in 1835 in Rome, New York and discussed plans to form a college.

A committee was appointed to travel to Illinois to buy land. They knew the land would increase in value and could be sold to new arrivals. The monetary difference would then be used to establish a school.

Professor George Churchill was introduced and made a few remarks. He was the longest serving of all the college's faculty. Dr. C.W. Leffingwell, of St. Mary's School in Knoxville, spoke of his graduation from Knox in 1862.

Dr. John C. Bradley, the President of Illinois College in Jacksonville praised the connection between the two schools and hoped it would continue. Dr. Albion W. Small of the University of Chicago, said "The small college is the place to get the foundation of character and the true foundation of knowledge."

After the benediction, the audience left the church as the Cadet Band played music. A reception was held in the evening.

**Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association**  
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