

INKLINGS AND IDLINGS

The Newsletter of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

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Summer 1997

In Case You Wondered...

The name, "Inklings and Idlings", comes from the title of a newspaper column Carl Sandburg wrote in 1904 in The Galesburg Evening Mail under the pseudonym "Crimson".

Mark it on your calendar

The annual meeting of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association will be held at the Sandburg Visitor Center on July 8, 7:30 PM. All members and friends are encouraged to attend.

It is also that time of year to renew your membership.

Individual \$10, Family \$20, Donor \$50, Sponsor \$250.

Through the support of its members, the Association has kept the magic of Carl Sandburg alive.

Improvements

With the Association's help many improvements were made at the site in the past year. Exhibits detailing Sandburg's college, army, and hobo years were completed. A podium was constructed to hold the historic **Life Magazine** stories about Sandburg. A new, more historically accurate picket fence was assembled and painted. A brick sidewalk linking the rear entrances of the cottage and the visitor center was built by staff out of used Purington bricks. Historically inaccurate basement windows at the cottage were filled in with brick, plus new shutters were purchased for the cottage. The Association paid for major renovations of the upstairs of the visitor center. Kitchen cupboards, a sink, and wood tabletops were built, as were shelves and cupboards for storage. These improvements made the upstairs much more efficient as well. An historic crazy quilt from the late 1800's, which was owned by a friend of Sandburg's is now on display.

Special Events

Both Knox and Carl Sandburg Colleges held their annual poetry contests with the site as co-sponsor.

The second annual Carl Sandburg Festival was held in April. The festival was marked with story readings, a writer's workshop, and a Sandburg look-a-like contest. The weekend culminated in a party hosted by the Association in which Sandburg's youngest daughter Helga attended.

The annual MidSommar concert-in-the-lawn was held. As always the Rootabaga Jammers thrilled the crowd with their swingin' music.

Other festivities that the Site took part in included Railroad Days, Knox County Scenic Drive, and the 150th celebration of the colonization of Bishop Hill, which brought thousands of Swedes to the area including the King and Queen.

The site was featured on "Illinois Adventure", a PBS program produced by WTVF Peoria.

A major Swedish TV producer filmed a Sandburg documentary. This one hour biography was shown in the spring on Swedish television and brought many Swedes to the Site.

The annual dinner for members of the Association was held in October with 75 people in attendance.

Volunteers

Membership has remained about the same for the Sandburg Association.

In 1996 the Association sponsored the Penny Parade raising over \$800 from that event and about \$7,000 from gift shop sales.

These proceeds paid for the outhouse renovations, the planting of four new evergreens around Remembrance Rock, the Carl Sandburg festival, and for the improvements to the upstairs of the visitor center. Marge Krueger is the current president of the Association.

Possible Projects for 1997

Complete plans for porch restoration and summer kitchen.
Historically accurate landscaping for the cottage
Relay existing brick sidewalks
Fence on east side of property to screen out dog kennels
Develop new exhibits on Galesburg and Sandburg

Attendance

The personnel welcomed 21,655 visitors to the Historic Site in 1996. A little less than past years, but still a whopping total

Personnel

Carol Nelson, Site Manager
Steve Holden, Site Interpreter
Adam Reyburn, seasonal help

In Passing

We regret to inform you on the passing of a very special woman. Carl Sandburg's oldest daughter Margaret died this past April at the age of 85.