

# INKLINGS and IDLINGS

The Newsletter of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association

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

*Holiday Season 2001*

## Welcome to New Members

Every issue of the newsletter has carried a welcome to new members of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association, and the Holiday number is no exception.

Joining us this time are:

Christine Hunsley  
Terri Stoetzer  
M/M Guy (Andrea) Vitale

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

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## From A Member

Eva Marie Henley, who celebrated her 94th birthday on November 5th, recently renewed her membership in the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association. In an accompanying note, she spoke of her connection to Galesburg.

In her childhood, she lived in Kansas City. Her father, Joseph Edward Fisher, had a brother Lou who owned a farm in Abingdon. When Lou Fisher's wife passed away, he moved to Galesburg.

From the age of four, Ms. Henley made visits to Galesburg, traveling on the Santa Fe. When she was eighteen, she moved to Galesburg and found employment at Montgomery Ward.

Her father's sister Eva and her husband owned two large greenhouses and twenty acres of land which was devoted to the growing of flowers and to truck gardening.

Ms. Henley was taught much about floral arranging, including the making of funeral sprays. She declared she loved her Galesburg kin, and apparently has nothing but fond memories of them.

Ms. Henley served as a technical sergeant in the Women's Army Corps during World War II. She lives alone in Independence, Missouri, even though she spends much of her time in a wheelchair.

We hope she will share more details of her interesting life with **Inklings and Idlings**.

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## From the Superintendent

We have been celebrating the completion of our "Barn" all-purpose building with a series of fall concerts managed by John Heasley. All have been well-attended and the guests have enjoyed the more spacious surroundings. The last concert by John and his friends Sunshine and Mike drew a standing-room-only crowd of about 75 and set us to wondering if we shouldn't have added another 12 feet to the building.

The plumbing is completed and the new facilities will be a welcome

addition for visitors. Landscaping, walks, gates and exhibits for the Barn will be finished in the next year. It was good the Barn was completed this year because the forecast for the future of new state improvements is poor. Economic conditions may prevent further enhancements to the Site.

A committee has been working on our school programs and a children's coloring/activity book. They hope to have them completed by spring. We hope to develop activities for children which will make their visit to the Site more interesting.

Other projects for the winter include putting finishing touches on the new Visitors' Center exhibit and developing exhibits for the Barn. We are working on plans for the Sandburg Festival next spring and will continue to sponsor folk concerts next year.

If you haven't visited the Site in the past few years, try to make a visit now. You will see tremendous changes that make the museum a first-class historic site. Also, visit our web site at [www.sandburg.org](http://www.sandburg.org) or e-mail us at [carl@sandburg.org](mailto:carl@sandburg.org).

Happy Holidays!

- Carol Nelson

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### Holiday Shopping

Do your holiday shopping at the Carl Sandburg Historic Site museum store. We have books, mugs, t-shirts, bookmarks, paper weights and note cards. New this year is a compilation of Sandburg poems for children with delightful illustrations by Lynn Smith-Ary for 4- to 8-year-olds. It is entitled *From Daybreak to Good Night*, and is only \$7.95 in paperback and \$19.95

for a hardbound copy.

We also have Bill Wundram's *What, Where and Yummy* which describes and illustrates 50 day trips in the area that are out-of-the-way but within a half-day drive. The book is just the right size to fit in the glove compartment of your car and may help you discover Illinois and Iowa. Each copy is \$14.95 and the author has signed it.

Remember, there is a 10 percent discount in the museum store for members of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association. All proceeds to the Association help with the Site programs and improvements.

- Carol Nelson

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### *Wrinklings & Wild Things*

"Lights! Camera! Action!"

"Action! Sound! Dimension!"

My main amazement with Mr. Carl August Sandburg dwells in this one fact: His diversity in the field of writing. Few people know of his multi-faceted literary output: newspaper journalism, socialist propaganda, poetry, Lincoln biography, childrens' stories, folksong compilations, fiction and autobiography.

How about (SILENT) motion picture reviews and essays?

Yes, indeed, Sandburg was a reviewer and essayist of the fledgling motion picture industry's output for the *Chicago Daily News* from 1920 through 1928. This was before "talkies." Before "technicolor" or "surround sound" or "3-D."

The book, *The Movies Are*, edited by Arnie Bernstein and published in



2000, uncovers and illuminates this particular facet of Sandburg's career. As I browsed through the work, I was surprised by an essay which Sandburg wrote for the Saturday, September 6, 1924, issue of the newspaper. It concerns "Stereoscopic Films," and I quote it here in its entirety.

If you happen to see stereoscopies offered at any theater you may be passing the next few weeks, you will find one or two reels of strange fun mixed with science.

It is a showing of binocular or two-eye photography in place of the common single-eye photography of the motion picture.

The camera blinks with two lenses, about as far apart as the two human eyes, and the audience looks at the picture with spectacles furnished by the ushers.

The extra keen vision of two eyes is brought out in a startling way.

Objects and people move out from the screen straight toward the onlooker, so that there is almost an illusion that we could reach out and take hold of what is projected before us.

This apparatus and what it does is just now a sort of toy or novelty.

We laugh at the newness and peculiarity of it, just as 15 years back we laughed at a motion picture of people walking and running.

But when we consider what toil and experiment there is going on to improve this apparatus, we have the feeling that in 5, 10 or 20 years, we may all carry pocket stereoscopes, or receive the glasses at the door, for looking at motion picture plays presented in three dimensions, with the same projection of surfaces in depth, that we have in everyday life.

If to such an apparatus there should then be added the reproduction of sound, the projection of voices in a way perfected and improved over the points now attained, that would be the triple novelty of motion and speech presented in three dimensions.

We would advise all 100 percent movie fans to try and hang on to life 10 or 20 years more.

We'll see what we'll see.

If you have seen the new exhibits at the Carl Sandburg State Historic Site, you may recall Sandburg's involvement in selling stereopticons and views. This occupation began while he was attending Lombard College at the turn of the twentieth century and continued off and on for a decade.

To see the stereoptic principle applied to the modern art of the motion picture must have given him a certain amount of satisfaction with his earlier occupation.

The Movies Are is available in the museum store.

- Steve Holden

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### Carl Sandburg Helps Dedicate a School

(Schools are often dedicated to the memory of someone who has passed away. Dr. Richard Sandburg describes a ceremony in which the honored man was very much present.)

It was always hilarious listening to Uncle Carl and Uncle Martin reminisce about the "good old days" on East Berrien Street in Galesburg, Illinois. One name would invariably crop up. "The Dirty Dozen," which was an American mixture composed of Swedish and French boys in their

teens.

As for the unsavory name, the only time the boys came close to deserving it was when they were arrested for swimming naked at the "Old Brick Hole" on the south side of Galesburg.

The boys were carted downtown in the open-air paddy wagon so everybody could see them in their misery. They spent some time before the judge, who listened, and warned them about further illegal swimming a la nude.

The youths were a close-knit group and Carl always attempted to renew contacts with them whenever he visited Galesburg, time permitting. Oscar "Husky" Larson was one of his favorites and I visited with him about Carl on several occasions.

Taking leave from the "Dirty Dozen" briefly--on October 15, 1959, the city of Mundelein, Illinois, dedicated a Carl Sandburg Elementary School and the event was flavored by the presence of the famous poet.

The school was named by Joan Raider, a freshman student at Libertyville-Fremont High School. Joan was the winner of an essay contest designed to choose the name for Mundelein's newest school.

Upon meeting her, Carl gave her a hug and autographed her volume of Sandburg's Complete Poems with the inscription, "I will remember you long, and I give you here a heart of love."

According to the Mundelein Independent-Register newspaper, when Sandburg arrived at the town's southern border, he was given a police escort to Washington School where all of the students of the five elementary schools gave him a rousing cheer.

The next stop was at Santa Marie del

Popola School where the grammar school's 1,000 students greeted Carl at the athletic field. The pupils saluted him with "Good afternoon," and recited one of his famous poems, "Fog."

Carl thanked them. He asked all of the students to raise their hands and he said, "Good luck to all of you and God bless you." He added, "It's good to see your faces and I'll remember them as long as I live."

After autographing several books for the nuns, the group drove to Mundelein's Lincoln School, where the students sat in a huge half-circle, six rows deep. Carl walked among them, chatting with some, and patting several on their heads.

Upon reaching Carl Sandburg Elementary School, he reminded the students, "I'm going to live a better life now that you've named this school after me," at which the children laughed. Later, he said, "I've got a hunch I'll be back in a few years. By then, you'll all have grown."

My aunt, Esther Sandburg Wachs, one of Carl Sandburg's younger sisters, had a glowing love and admiration for her famous brother. Her apartment, over her husband's Ben Franklin Retail store in Gibson City, was stacked with books, magazines and pictures pertaining to Carl's life. Whenever Carl gave a lecture or attended a dedication for a school which was named for him (some 37 or more), she would call and ask me to accompany her and husband Art to the event, which I usually did.

My wife and I invited a college friend, Dr. James "Al" Dowdall and his wife, Christine, to share the occasion, as they lived in Libertyville, only a few miles from Mundelein.



We learned that members of the Mundelein Board of Education were taking Carl to a restaurant in Grayslake prior to the dedication. Arriving early, we awaited the Sandburg party, and shortly, an entourage of cars, led by a state police car, drove up to the entrance of the restaurant.

A state policeman opened the door and Carl emerged, slightly bent over, and wearing his ever-present shawl around his neck. He and the board members were ushered to a private dining room and our group had dinner in the main dining room. After a brief wait, I wrote a note to Uncle Carl, "Aunt Esther and I await without--a drink" and asked our waitress to deliver it to him.

She returned shortly, beaming, and asked us to follow her to the private room. Carl greeted us with his traditional bear hug and expressed his joy at our sharing his day.

I introduced Carl to my friends and explained that Christine was a niece of Father Wegner, the administrator of Boy's Town in Nebraska, her mother being his twin. Carl was impressed, we visited briefly, and returned to our table.

Later, we witnessed the lengthy withdrawal of cars from the restaurant, heading to Mundelein's newest school.

The Mundelein newspaper reported Carl expressed pleasure that Mundelein was named for George Cardinal Mundelein. He said, "When I was a newspaper reporter, I interviewed him and found him to be a fair fellow and a gentleman."

The dedication of the school was attended by more than 500, including numerous children, to whom most of his remarks were directed. He reminded them that "they have all

the apparatus, all the rooms and equipment that children can use in that activity called 'school learning'."

Sandburg commented upon rivals of the school building, such as the movies, radio and in a sinister voice he added, "TELEVISION!"

He reported that a youngster claimed he had attended at least three movies a week. Carl reminded the youth even once a month would be enough as they don't make twelve good movies a year in Hollywood.

He said that every time you use these media, you are getting education, conscious or unconscious, trivial or important. And they aim at your primitive nature, your blood.

"They steal time that might be spent with the classics," he added, "and some thoughtful parents limit television viewing to Saturdays."

Sandburg's reaction to the school being named for him was, "I think never before has this happened--a writer of books who is still living having a school named for him and meeting its children face to face."

Commenting on criticism of America's youngsters, he said that when he heard such talk, he recalled World War II and Korea and the epics of valor done there. There are always "a few jerks--that's what they should be called."

Mundelein police and volunteer firemen reported that operations went smoothly at the Carl Sandburg dedication. Three officers were assigned to direct traffic as there was a good crowd. Parking worked out smoothly and 13 volunteer firemen showed at the school to help direct the crowd.

As Sandburg left the auditorium, he

commented to school board member, Harold Sandberg, "It has been a large melodious evening." Sandberg, with an "e", also originally hailed from Galesburg.

Out in the hallway of the modern school building, he kissed 14-year-old Joan Raider, who chose the name for the school, and praised her with "you are a modest, lovely girl."

Upon leaving the building, but before entering the police car, he bade goodbye to his sister, Esther, and turning to to me, he commented, "Dick, I thoroughly enjoyed your note about the drink. It is in my pocket and I will add it to my collection." Then he snickered in my left ear, "I'll bet the Dirty Dozen would have reminded me of a previous ride in a police car when we were arrested for swimming in the nude."

Another exciting Carl Sandburg day was ending, but the memories will remain forever.

- Dr. Richard Sandburg

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### An Old Recipe

The mimeographed copy of this recipe was found in an old cookbook purchased at a tag sale. During the 1950s and 1960s, Swedish Coffee Cake was very popular in the Midwest. Mothers and daughters prepared it for special occasions and holidays. 4-H Club members demonstrated how to make it at their meetings. It was sold by local bakeries as well. Swedish Coffee Cake was a "comfort food" for all ages and sexes, no matter their ethnic origin. And, oh, the aroma of it baking in the kitchen!

Swedish Coffee Cake  
(Kaffekaka)

1 1/4 cups milk  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 cup butter  
1 teaspoon salt  
1 package dry yeast or 1 yeast cake  
1/4 cup lukewarm water  
1 egg, beaten  
1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon crushed cardamom  
4 1/2 cups sifted all purpose flour  
(about)

#### Filling:

1/4 cup butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup chopped almonds  
1 cup candied fruit (about)

Scald milk, stir in sugar, butter and salt and let cool to lukewarm. Sprinkle or crumble yeast over lukewarm water. Stir until dissolved, and add to milk mixture. Add beaten egg and crushed cardamom. Gradually stir in flour, beating well. Turn out on a lightly floured board. Knead until smooth and elastic. Place in a greased bowl. Brush with butter.

Cover and let rise in warm place away from drafts until doubled in bulk, about two hours. Punch down and divide into two balls. Roll each ball into an oblong shape about 8 inches wide and 20 inches long. For the filling, brush with half the melted butter, sprinkle with half the sugar, nuts and fruit. Roll as for jelly roll. Seal ends by tucking one into the other. Transfer ring to greased baking sheet.

With scissors cut diagonally toward the center at 1 inch intervals almost through the ring. Turn outside edges of slices a little to make the separations between them wider. Brush with melted butter, cover and let rise until double in bulk, about 1 1/2 hours. Bake in a moderately hot oven (375 degrees F.) for about 20 minutes. Don't let coffee ring get too brown. Brush with butter. For special occasions,



ice and decorate ring with candied fruit and nuts.

Makes 2 coffee rings

- Barbara Schock

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### More From Sweden (continued)

In the Summer issue of *Inklings and Idlings* Tomas Junglander of Stockholm, Sweden, provided a map of Sweden and two photographs of the birthplaces of Carl Sandburg's parents. We promised to publish in a future issue his photographs of the farms where August and Clara Sandburg worked before they migrated to the United States. Please note August used the surname of Danielsson in Sweden.

The photographs appear on the following pages. This is the first time such information has been published in this country. We are most appreciative of Mr. Junglander's generosity in sharing the information.

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### Santa in 1900

Following the Swedish photographs you will find the face of Santa Claus. He has a kindly visage and a luxurious beard. Here is the story of how he got to be in *Inklings and Idlings*.

While viewing the microfilm of old Galesburg newspapers at the Galesburg Public Library a few months ago, we found this drawing. It is appropriate for the Holiday issue and may be an interesting game for your children or grandchildren.

"An Easy Puzzle for Little Folks' Sharp Eyes" appeared on the front

page of *The Galesburg Evening Mail* on December 22, 1900. The paper offered these suggestions for finding the clues in the puzzle.

"Here you may find not only Santa Claus, but his reindeer and sleigh, a Christmas tree, a Christmas turkey, a bad little boy who has been skipped by St. Nick, a good little boy and his good little sister and some of the toys they received." Can you find all those items in the drawing? Use a colored pencil or crayon to outline each item mentioned to make them easier to see.

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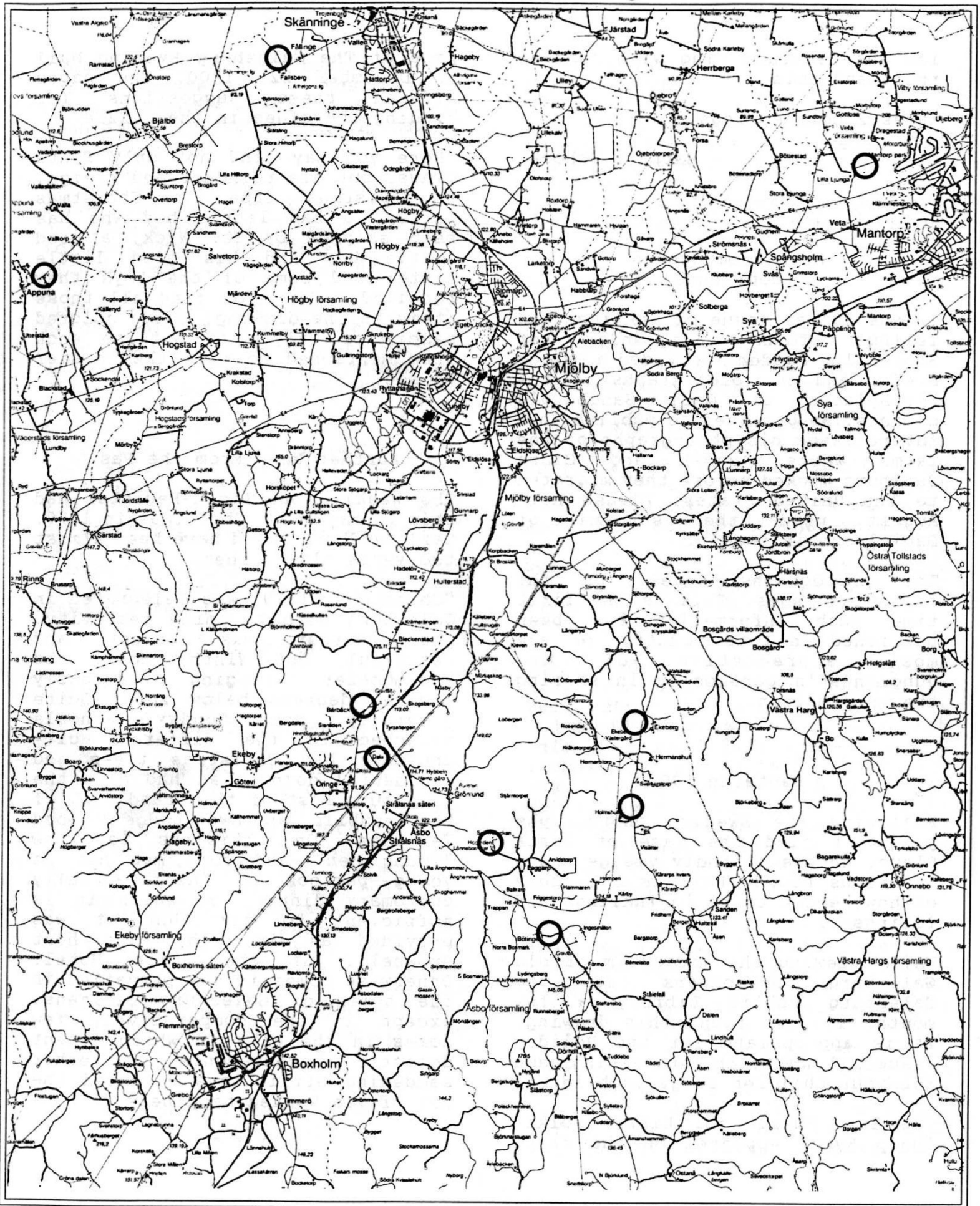
### Further News From the Past

The *Weekly Republican-Register* had this to say about Christmas in 1879. Carl Sandburg would have been almost two years old by then.

"Christmas, 1879, was celebrated in Galesburg with becoming festivity. The weather was bright and beautiful, but wintry cold, the thermometer ranging variously several degrees below zero. Quite generally the Sunday Schools attached to the different city churches had Christmas trees and incidental doings, as had also the Galesburg Post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Swea Lodge of Good Templars. On Christmas Day the "Young Men"--and some men not so young--partook of their annually customary dinner, of which it is sufficient to say that it was provided as usual by mine host Brownell, of the Union Hotel. Otherwise domestic joy prevailed in the homes of Galesburg citizens, except in the comparatively few homes in the city in which recent domestic bereavements or other saddening afflictions divested the day of its wonted happiness."

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# Geografiska Sverigedata Sandburg's Sweden







Holmshult, Asbo  
August Danielsson worked here as a farmhand, 1858-1861



Ekeberg, Mjölby  
August Danielsson worked here as a farmhand, 1861-1863



Dala Inn, Ekeby  
August Danielsson worked here as a farmhand, 1863-1864



Fallsbergs Farm, Skenninge  
Klara Mathilda Andersson worked here as a maid, 1870-1873





The name, "Inklings and Idlings," comes from the title of Carl Sandburg's first column, printed in the **Galesburg Evening Mail** under the pseudonym "Crimson", in 1904.

The newsletter welcomes articles, particularly about Carl Sandburg, Galesburg, and Knox County. Space limitations may require that they be edited. The articles should be sent to:

Inklings and Idlings  
Carl Sandburg Historic Site  
Association  
313 East Third Street  
Galesburg, IL 61401

Barbara Schock  
Editor

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### The Address Label

If you are a member of the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association, you are asked to examine the address label below on your copy of **Inklings and Idlings**. You will see the first line consists of a three-letter abbreviation of a month, and a two-digit number, usually 01 or 02.

It represents the expiration date of your membership. For example, Dec01 indicates an expiration date of December, 2001. An earlier date, such as Nov01, denotes a membership which is in arrears.

If your expiration date does not correspond with your records, please notify the Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association.

Carl Sandburg Historic Site Association  
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