

Gene Stratton Porter Memorial Society, Inc.

Sylvan Lake • Rural Route 1 • Rome City, Indiana 46784
Phone 219/854-3790



THE BEGINNING OF SUMMER AT THE CABIN IN WILDFLOWER WOODS

The summer solstice of the year 1985, which occurred on or about June 22, is now a part of history. We refer to that date because it was the intent of this writer, when he was writing the news several years ago, to mail a newsletter at least quarterly, preferably at the time of the changing of the seasons. Having now accepted the assignment of secretary at the last annual meeting, his thoughts are again fixed toward that goal.

The annual meeting of the Society was held May 15, 1985 at Shook's Restaurant, Kendallville, Indiana. Officers elected were:

President:	Imogene Miller, Business Woman, Auburn, Ind.
Vice President:	Linda Shultz, Librarian, Noble County
Secretary:	Russell F. Frehse, retired, Kendallville, Ind.
Treasurer:	Martha McKibben, Assistant Curator, The Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site, Rome City, Ind.

Margie Sweeney is the curator of the Historic Site at Rome City and supplies her expertise in the administration of the Society.

Margie and Martha make a large number of public appearances throughout the year to promote the Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site and the Society. August 15th at 6:30 a.m. they will be on the Wayne Rothgeb Show, Channel 33, Fort Wayne. They have had this card printed for quick and ready reference:

"Wander Through Wildflower Woods"

Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site
R #1, Box 364, Rome City, IN 46784



Margie Sweeney, Curator

Martha McKibben, Ass't. Curator



Business: (219) 854-3790
Residence: (219) 854-3791

Members wishing to correspond should direct all mail to the above address.

Rose King, the ever willing and capable pianist, who accompanies Margie and Martha in their public appearances, again furnished music at the annual meeting, which was preceded by a dinner.

Emmy Knecht, for many years the faithful gardner on the grounds, was present to receive the applause and approbation of both the Society membership

and Margie on behalf of the State Historic Sites. Emmy was born in Holestine, Germany not far from the North Sea. She was well in her girlhood years when she decided to emigrate, having attended the schools of Holestine District, she still speaks with a decided German accent.

For the benefit of those not present on May 15th, a copy of the financial report is included with this letter. Particular attention is directed to the next to last entry; viz. "Certificate of Deposit.....\$1,200.50." This represents proceeds from life memberships, plus two donations of one hundred dollars or more. We feel it a pertinent matter to call attention of our readers to an extract from our by-laws which reads, "The earnings from this fund shall be presented as a cash gift at the time of the presentation of awards at the Miss Limberlost Pageant, currently sponsored by the Kendallville Chamber of Commerce, to a contestant of the Pageant contest whom the judges chose by the Pageant committee, shall declare to have exhibited an outstanding talent, except that the judges shall not consider beauty and shall not select for the award the Miss Limberlost of the year, nor the first runner-up, nor the second runner-up."

July 5, 1985 was the date of the eleventh Miss Limberlost Pageant, which was held in the auditorium of the East Noble School Corporation, Kendallville. (Incidentally, when this consolidated school was organized back in the 1960's, we understand there was a motion before the Board of Trustees to name the school "Limberlost." It lost by one vote.)

We gave FRECKLES novels and butterfly pins to the seven contestants, \$100 to the non-finalist talent winner, and Ruth Ann Figgins graciously donated a 1st edition of GIRL OF THE LIMBERLOST to the lovely winner, Pam Stephen. The contestant who was selected by the judges to receive the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society award was Anita Marie Green of LaOtto, Indiana. A photostatic copy of the write-ups for Miss Green and Miss Stephen as it appeared in the Kendallville News-Sun, is included.

We believe Mrs. Porter would most wanted to have been remembered in this manner. Many of the earthly affairs of our mundane way of life will be absolutely forgotten by the generations to follow, but the feeblest effort to encourage a young musician could make marks for many years to come. We learn there are readers of our letters who live many hundreds of miles from "The Cabin in Wildflower Woods." They ask questions about Mrs. Porter - the who, what, where, etc., consequently here is the essence from some after-dinner remarks made at the annual dinner meeting by Margie. We take the liberty of adding supplementary comments with the help of Arthur W. Shumaker's "A History of Indiana Literature." The latter is a publication of the Indiana Historical Society. Also, we rely on a few scrapbook articles.

Geneva Stratton was born on August 17, 1863, the twelfth child of the Reverend Mark Stratton and Mary Stratton. The father was a farmer and Methodist minister. He was of British origin and the mother was of Dutch ancestry. Both parents had a strong interest in literature and they shared a love of nature.

At the home back on the Wabash County Farm, Geneva's contribution to the family duties was to care for the chickens. The mother suffered failing health before Geneva finished high school and, also, a sister at home but not in good health, needed Geneva's care. This caused her to leave her formal education before she secured a high school diploma. Geneva has been described by her biographers as a timid and withdrawn girl.

On April 21, 1886, Geneva Stratton and Charles Dorwin Porter, a small

town druggist, were married. They took up residence in Decatur, Indiana, and in 1888 the daughter, Jeanette, was born. She was the only child.

Mr. Porter was a successful business man. In addition to his drug store in Geneva, he organized and managed a bank. Oil was discovered on farm land owned by Mr. Porter, and this helped to add to the family fortune. In 1895 they designed and built a red cedar log house with fourteen rooms in Geneva, Indiana.

Mrs. Porter wrote several articles for prominent magazines around the turn of the century, and in 1903 "The Song of the Cardinal" was published by Bowen and Merrill Company, predecessors of the Bobbs-Merrill Company. Edward A. Leary, writing for The Indianapolis Star in 1972 described the publication as a "slender book" but being a "literary phenomena." Success followed and Mrs. Porter was on the way to a liberyary career.

The May 1985 issue of Outdoor Indiana contained an item on the two Gene Stratton-Porter Homes; viz, Geneva, Indiana and Rome City, Indiana, co-authored by James McFaul and Marjorie Sweeney. Outdoor Indiana is a publication of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, which encompasses the management of the State Museums and Memorials. The magazine is published ten times per year and copies are available at the Memorial at \$1.25 each. It is a delightful publication, and covers the activities of the Department of Natural Resources. Your membership in the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society makes a significant contribution toward the finances needed to continue the work at one of the state facilities, Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site.

The Indiana State Museum system is a division of the Department of Natural Resources and has charge of almost 1000 acres of land and more than thirty historical structures and over one thousand pieces of fine art, furniture, textiles, pre-historic items and other historical artifacts. Dr. Lee Scott Theisen is director of the state museum and historic sites.

We note with deepest sorrow the death of one of our helpful and most supporting members, Charles Shull. He died November 9, 1984 in the LaGrange Hospital. Mr. Shull was a graduate of Purdue University and an active orchardist in the Orange Township - Sylvan Lake area.

We report for the benefit of out-of-town visitors the planned expansion of the Limberlost Country Club, a next door neighbor to the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial. Arden Pease is the new owner. In addition to extensive improvements in the golf course, the dining room has been opened to the public for noon lunch and dinner. The hungry visitor may wish to keep this restaurant in mind.

* REMARKS FROM THE PRESIDENT *

I would like to thank all of you who made a contribution for Freckles Day. I hope to meet each and every one on our special week-end. See you August 17th and 18th!

Imogene

Girls of the Limberlost

KENDALLVILLE — The 11th annual Miss Limberlost Pageant, the first step on the road to Miss America, will take place Friday at the Cole Auditorium at East Noble High School.

This year's pageant features seven entrants from Noble and LaGrange counties. They will be vying for \$1,100 in scholarships and a chance to represent the area in the Miss Indiana Pageant in June of 1986. The girls will be competing in four categories: interview, talent, swimsuit and evening gown.

Following are biographies of two of the young women who will be competing Friday night:



Anita Green

Anita Marie Green, 16, of LaOtto, will be a senior next year at East Noble High School. She is active in music at East Noble, having won seven first place medals for her singing and piano playing in local competitions, as well as two first place and one second place medal in state competitions. She

also participates in golf, swimming and cycling.

Green is 5-foot, 5-inches tall, 128 pounds and has dark brown hair and dark brown eyes. She will play a piece by Mendelssohn on the piano for her talent competition. She hopes to continue her music in college by pursuing a degree in music and education.

Her hobbies include playing songs for enjoyment, singing, listening to the radio, exercising and watching singers perform. She says she loves to entertain people and enjoys practicing long hours to perfect her performances. She believes music is an important part of the world. "If there was no music, the world would have no color," she says. "I want to teach people the essence of music."

Ann Ritchie 3rd in Miss Indiana

MICHIGAN CITY — Kendallville's own Ann Ritchie, 1984 Miss Limberlost, captured the second runner-up spot in the Miss Indiana Scholarship Pageant here Saturday night.



Ann Ritchie

THE NEWS-SUN



A QUEEN AND HER COURT — Pamela Stephen, center, was crowned Miss Limberlost 1986 at the annual pageant Friday night in the Cole Auditorium. Beverly Burgl, left, was named first run-

ner-up and Becky Bower, right, was the second runner-up, as well as being voted Miss Congeniality. (News-Sun photos by David Walter)

Pam Stephen crowned Miss Limberlost 1986

GREETINGS FROM WILDFLOWER WOODS

The past three months have been very busy but rewarding. In May we had twenty-two special tour groups and Margie and Martha gave twelve special programs. We are thankful for our two summer hostesses, Mary Jane Rider and Jeannette Shull.

Thanks to everyone's help for our first garden party, June 3, was very successful. At 10:30 a.m. Linda Shultz showed the movie "Freckles" at Center Chapel Church. Thanks Linda! Doughnuts and coffee were served. Back to Gene Stratton-Porter for a delicious lunch served in white sacks stenciled with burgandy butterflies. Our shelter-picnic area was a pretty sight with burgandy tableclothes and baskets of flowers. After a leisurely walk to the formal gardens everyone enjoyed a lovely style show presented by Wible's Ladies Apparel, Wolcottville. Cabin tours were also given.

We are pleased to welcome three new life members to the Gene Stratton-Porter Society - Dorothy Baad and Emerson and Beverly Emrick. Welcome and thanks for your support.

Our book collection has been enhanced by two very generous ladies; Mrs. Alda M. Draxler presented us with a 1st edition, suede cloth cover, of LADDIE; and Ms. Carolyn Allworth sent nineteen novels, including three first editions, from Halifax, Canada.

Now to our upcoming big events, "Freckles Days," August 17 and 18. Hope many of you will join us. Martin West, star of the 1960 movie "Freckles" will be our guest.

"Rome City's Gene Stratton-Porter Chautaugua Days"

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 1985

- 10:00 a.m. -Martin West will be at school house to autograph novels
 - 10:30 a.m. -Movie, "Freckles," Rome City School
 - 12:00 noon -Movie, "Freckles," Rome City School
 - 12:00 noon -Registration for "Freckles" contestants - Boys (0-20years), red hair, freckles and "Little Scout" contestants - Girls (0-20 years), tomboys, freckles, red hair at GSP Cabin.
 - 1:00 p.m. -"Freckles" & "Little Scout" contests - GSP Cabin
 - 2:00 p.m. -Parade - Rome City
Historic Automobile Assoc., Fort Wayne
Historic Automobile Assoc., LaGrange & Noble Counties
East Noble Marching Band & Color Guard
Keystone Cops
Shriners Bicycle Club
Rome City Fire Department
Miss Limberlost & "Freckles" & "Little Scout"
Martin West
 - 3:30 p.m. -Gaslight Children's Theater Performance - GSP Parking Lot Shelter
 - 6:30 p.m. -Reception - Limberlost Country Club
 - 6:30 - 7:00 Social Hour
 - 7:00 Dinner
 - 9:15 Fireworks
Music
- \$18.00/couple includes dinner, tax, tip, music, fireworks
Reservation in advance

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 1985

- 10:00 a.m. -Gospel Sing - GSP Parking Lot Shelter (bring own chair)
Brush Cottage Gospel Singers - Auburn
-Cars from Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum
- 12:00 noon -Freckles Golf Tournament - Limberlost Country Club
"Tee-off time with Freckles, Martin West"
-Li'l' Miss Northeast Indiana, Sara Winebrenner, will make an appearance

A chicken barb-e-que will be held both days at the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial, along with cabin tours. WBTU will also be there both days, broadcasting live. Arrangements for activites has been made in case of rain.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP
GENE STRATTON-PORTER MEMORIAL SOCIETY, INC.
R. R. 1, Rome City, Indiana 46784

NAME _____

Mailing Address _____

Check Membership Desired

Student.....	\$1.00	Sustaining.....	\$15.00
Regular.....	5.00	Non-Profit Organization.....	20.00
Family.....	7.50	Life - Single.....	50.00
		Life - Husband & Wife.....	65.00

Membership runs from January 1 through December 31

GENE STRATTON-PORTER SOCIETY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

May 1, 1984 - April 30, 1985

Balances May 1, 1984

Checking		\$ 357.69	
Savings		621.76	
			<u>\$ 979.45</u>

INCOME

Memberships	\$ 742.45	
Museum Shop	609.05	
Donations	259.61	
Interest	35.97	
	<u>\$1,647.08</u>	

Total Income	\$2,626.53
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EXPENDITURES

Office Supplies & Postage	\$ 263.76	
Printing Newsletters & Copies	160.71	
Materials for Collection, VCR, books, newspapers, movie posters, etc.	458.75	
Events: Miss Limberlost Pageant, summer open house, Freckles contest, GSP & Barbie Doll garden party, Holiday Open House, Farm-Home Day at Albion	561.67	
Gift Shop Merchandise	69.40	
Dues (Not-for-profit cosp. report - 1983 & 1984)	20.00	
	<u>\$1,534.29</u>	

Total Expenditures	<u>\$1,534.29</u>
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Balances April 30, 1985

Checkings	\$ 388.89	
Savings	703.35	
	<u>\$1,092.24</u>	<u>\$1,092.24</u>

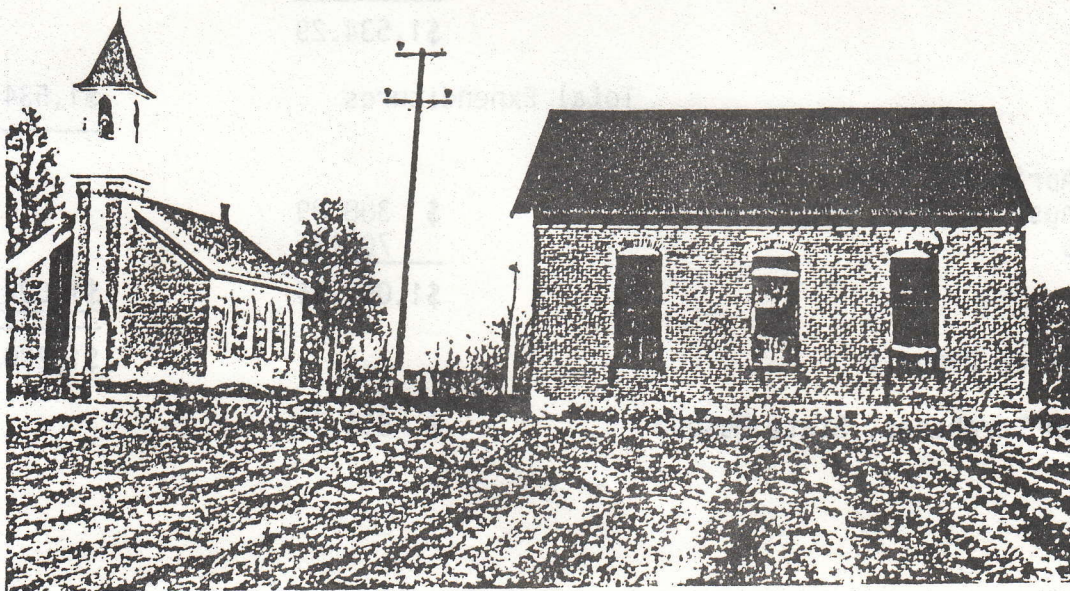
Certificate of Deposit		\$1,200.00
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Museum Shop Purchases, State Museum	\$ 865.70	
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Gene Stratton Porter Memorial
Society, Inc.

Sylvan Lake • Rural Route 1 • Rome City, Indiana 46784
Phone 219/854-3790

FROM



REV. MARK STRATTON'S CHURCH
GENE STRATTON'S SCHOOL
HOPEWELL, INDIANA