

GENE STRATTON-PORTER MEMORIALSOCIETY, INC.

NEWSLETTER • FALL 1998

P.O. BOX 639
ROME CITY, INDIANA 46784



GENE'S OAT-FIELD

This is fall and time for the harvests. In *Music of the Wild*, Gene tells about her favorite grain and why. "Every grain field of earth has its choral union, but it long has been a study of mine to decide which musicians have the loveliest environment. I was strongly attracted with wheat; corn, rye, buckwheat, all had weighty consideration, and clover almost tipped the scales of my judgement in its favor, but after years of deliberation the choice has fallen on oats.

From a few inches in height the growing oats show a rare blue-green color with frosty lights, seen in no other grain. When the lacy heads are almost matured, and nodding "Good-day" to the level rays of the setting sun, and bowing "Good-evening" to the white lights of the rising moon; when one at a time thousands of fireflies rise from earth, light their lanterns, and begin the business of life; when numberless insects play or sing; when the big trees rock softly, cradling sleeping birds, and the river whispers their lullaby, - the oat field is the most beautiful on God's footstool, and it is alive with musicians."



"When the foxfire burns beside the river,
The crickets sing under tawny leaves,
And grasshopper fiddles solemnly quiver,
While the harvesters gather the sheaves."
- Gene Stratton-Porter

FALL FOLIAGE WALK

Fifty-one enthusiastic nature lovers joined Naturalist Pat Bolman on a two hour walk through both Wildflower Woods and the new woods. A beautiful sunny day made the lovely reds, oranges and yellows of fall more brilliant. Participants enjoyed homemade goodies prepared by Jeannette Shull.

They had their first view of the mascot of the new woods:



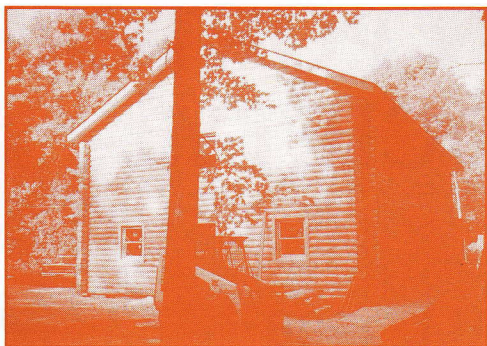
We need names for both the tree mascot and the new woods. Please submit your entries for each.

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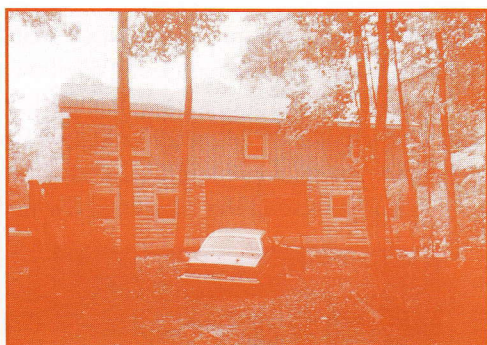
SPECIAL THANKS!

The grounds crew at the site have done a marvelous job of preserving and maintaining this year! They have had lots of well deserved praise for the beauty of the gardens, paths, and woods. The thanks goes to Jeannette, Eva, Sharon, Tonya, Bobbie, Roger and Linda. These people are employed either by the State or by Green Thumb.

Then there are the volunteers whom we couldn't do without: namely Nancy and Carol plus numerous community service workers.



This picture, taken Friday, October 16, shows the south end of the Carriage House with the logs and windows in place. The logs on the other sides of the building are up to the 2nd floor. It has been slow going because each log has to be fitted. Some contractors would slap the logs up any old way, but our contractor makes sure each log fits!



This view, taken Friday, October 16, shows the front of the Carriage House with windows in place and about 1/2 of the logs up. The front door will be a double glass door with a dark brown oxidized aluminum frame. This is the view from the cabin.

Construction has progressed well in the past 2 weeks. The front concrete deck and handicapped ramp are finished, the 2 furnaces and duct work are in, air conditioning units will be set shortly, circuit breaker and main entrance electrical boxes are set and approximately 4000 feet of wire has been installed. Electrical, heating and plumbing work will be finished after the drywall is done.

It is anticipated that the drywall installation will start the end of this week (Oct. 19). The lift is on the premises and will be installed when the drywall is finished.

We can be very proud of the workmanship in our building. The lift personnel told us that the lift shaft in our building is the most accurate shaft they have seen. This company from Fort Wayne is a large firm and has seen many shafts in its years of installing elevators and lifts. The lift shaft from the first floor to the second floor is within 1/4 inch of being 100% accurate.

Much needs to be finished: the stairway, the drywall, the exterior doors, the interior doors, the windows trimmed, the suspended ceiling and numerous other things, but we are at a point where things are falling into place fast and we now feel we can see a finished Visitors Center in the near future.

It has been a long haul, but thanks to many, many people the Carriage House Visitors Center is quickly becoming a reality.

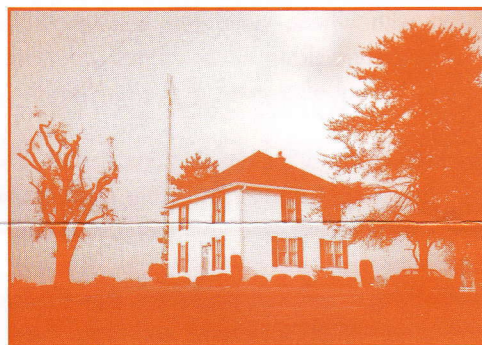
GENE'S WORD GOES TO TEXAS !!

Margie and Martha were in Granbury, Texas to present Gene Stratton-Porter to more fans. They talked of Gene's life from childhood to adulthood, discussed her books and showed movies based on her books. It is always wonderful to meet new people and share their enthusiasm for Gene.

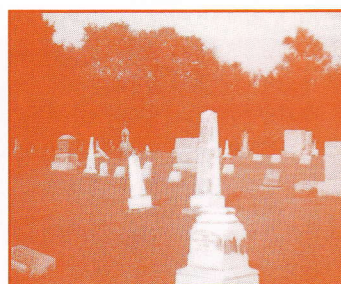
A TRIP TO GENE'S BIRTHPLACE

The Swamp Angels, Margie & Martha, and the Swamp Master, Guy, travelled to Peru, Indiana to present a Gene Stratton-Porter program. A side trip to LaGro seemed quite appropriate. The Swamp Angels are not the best photographers, but never the less they tried.

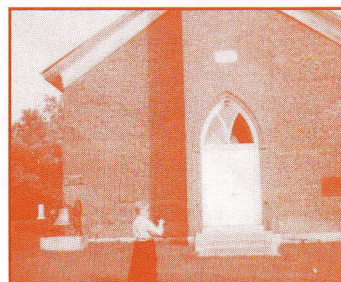
The house is the one built to replace Gene's family home which burnt. The catalpa tree where Gene sat and watched the farm activities is gone.



Gene's Family Home



LaGro Cemetery



LaGro Church

Because the Carriage House Visitors Center is a public building, it has been necessary to comply with numerous codes which have required many special fixtures and installations, all of which have added to our building cost:

- Handicapped restroom fixtures are higher priced than standard fixtures
- The ceilings on both floors had to be 9 feet high instead of 8 feet, to accomodate heating & air conditioning runs and plumbing pipes
- Concrete decks and ramps replaced wood, thus reducing maintenance costs and future replacement costs
- 6,8 & 10 inch screws replaced usual nails to tie the logs to the building frame, thus making for a more solid building
- Steel frame solid core doors with 1 hour fire ratings were necessary, and
- Since original pricing of materials in the Spring of 1997, many prices have increased.

With these and several small design changes to help traffic flow, the total estimated costs of the building have increased to **\$322,500.00**, an increase of **7.5%**.

As of October 19, we have collected **\$302,099.07**, which is over the original estimated cost, but still short approximately \$20,400.

We are again asking our members for donations to erase the shortage.

Please mail donations made out to the:

Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society Inc.
Carriage House Fund
Post Office Box 639
Rome City, Indiana 46784

Thank you very much!!

"Avenues to Adventure", a magazine of where to go and what to see in Northern Indiana, is put out by Spectra Print.

This is free and distributed throughout Northern Indiana, Lower Michigan and Eastern Ohio.

The October-November issue has the Cabin on the cover and a feature article on the site. We will have an ad in several issues to promote the site and our activities.

Surprised and Pleased!

Were we ever surprised when the call came telling us that we had been chosen Noble County Business of the Day by Radio Station WAWK. The lunch which they delivered from Subway was delicious and much appreciated. Thanks to WAWK.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**GENE STRATTON-PORTER
MEMORIAL SOCIETY, INC.**

**Route 1 - Box 639
Rome City, IN 46784
1-219-854-3790**

Name

Business or Organization Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Phone

- | | | | |
|--|----------------|---|-----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single | \$10.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family | \$15.00 | Life (40 yrs. of age or older) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$20.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Single | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit Org. | \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Husband & Wife | \$150.00 |

Thank You !

DUES INCREASE

At the June 2, 1998 Board of Directors meeting, it was noted that our dues are the same as they were in 1989, and expenses have risen in these past 9 years. As an example:

Annual Dinner Meeting	\$130.00
Birthday Celebration	240.00
Garden Tea	278.07
Christmas Open House	610.71
Brochures	1,666.24
Liability Insurance	238.00
Newsletter Printing	343.42
Office Supplies	162.62
Ind. Secretary of State (Incorporation Renewal)	10.00
Misc.	75.00
Total	\$3,754.06

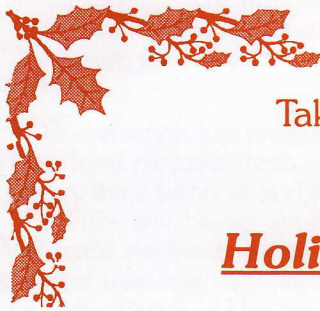
Divide Expenses (\$ 3,754.06) By Members (263), and the Total Cost comes to **\$14.27 per member!**

As you can see, our dues do not nearly cover our expenses, the deficit being made up from gift shop sales, sustaining memberships and donations.

After much discussion, the Board reluctantly decided to raise the January 1, 1999 dues as follows:

Single	\$10.00	Businesses	\$ 25.00
Family	\$15.00	Single Life Memb. . .	\$100.00
Sustaining	\$ 20.00	Husband & Wife	
Non-Profit Org. . .	\$25.00	Life Memb.	\$150.00

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P.O. BOX 639 • ROME CITY, IN 46784
(219) 854-3790



Get in the Spirit!
Take the candy cane lane to:

The Annual
Holiday Open House

Saturday, November 14, 1998 9 am - 9 pm

Gus Butcher at the piano

Candlelight Walk 6 pm - 9 pm

Music by the Larimer Trio

Sunday, November 15, 1998 11 am - 5 pm

Music by Gus Butcher (at the piano)

Paperdoll Book signing by

Norma Lu Meehan

1 pm - 4 pm

GIFT SHOP!

GIFTS FOR ALL OCCASIONS

COME and SEE the
UNIQUE GIFTS !

- BEARS with Christmas Sweaters or Indiana Sweaters
- Sweatshirts with Winter Designs
- Amber Jewelry
- Christmas Jewelry
- Silver Jewelry
- Gingham Trees with Button Trims
- Santa Ornaments
- Gene Stratton-Porter Paper Dolls
- Vera Bradley Bags



Gene Stratton-Porter State Historical Site
Lumberlost North
1205 Pleasant Point, Box 639
Rome City, Indiana 46784
(219) 854-3790

Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites
Division of the Department of Natural Resources