

February, 1992

Greetings from Timberlost North,

It has been some time since you have heard from us. We have had a busy time and we want to share some of the past highlights and tell you of upcoming events.

The first Fall Foliage Walk was held in September. Fifty nature enthusiasts joined Naturalist Susan Beck for an enjoyable and informative afternoon. After the walk all enjoyed refreshments provided by the Society.

It seems to be another good year for ice fishing as evidenced by our full parking lot. The fishermen are glad for the facilities provided at the site.

Due to the legislature's budgetary cuts we are closed to tourists till March 15th. However, the full time staff is hard at work attending to the routine duties plus painting, cleaning and planning programs in preparation for the upcoming season.

We look forward to your visit in 1992.

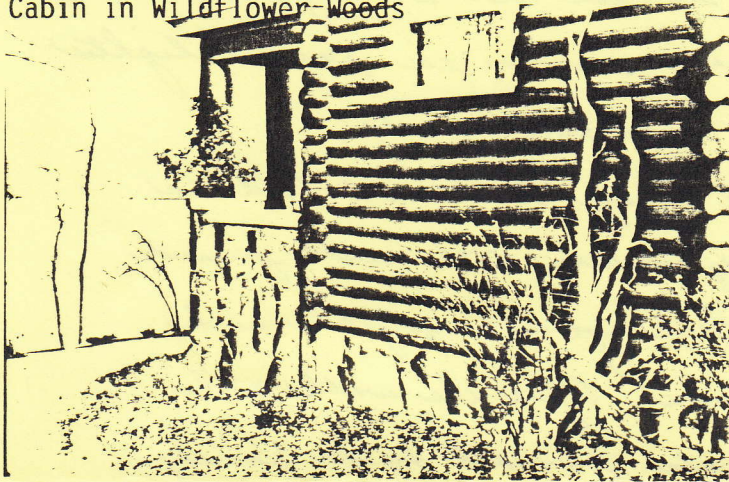
Margie Martha

"Christmas 1991 at Limberlost, North"

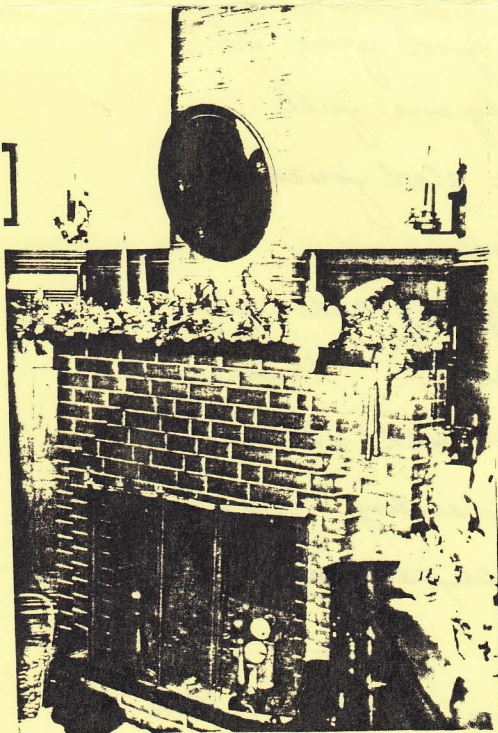
What a wonderful time was had by all! The lovely strains of music which drifted over the woods and through the Cabin was provided by The Madrigal Singers, Gus Butcher, pianist, Nancy Morse, harpist, and The Asbury United Methodist Bell Ringers. After touring the first and second floors of the Cabin, beautifully decorated by Our Compliments of Columbia City, you could partake of yummy homemade goodies. Many gracious volunteers helped the site staff answer questions and serve approximately 2500 guests.

"We want to thank the Society and all the volunteers who helped make our events so successful in 1991"

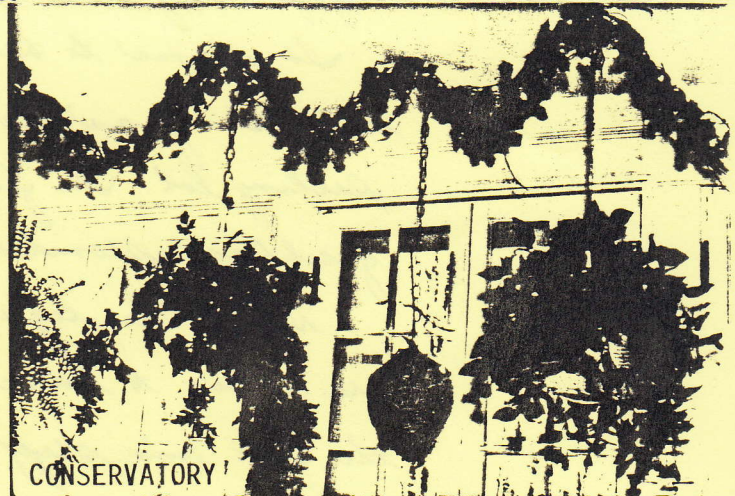
Cabin in Wildflower Woods



VOLUNTEERS



DINING ROOM FIREPLACE



CONSERVATORY



SITE STAFF

SUPER 1992

1992 will be a super year at Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site with the support of the Rome City community, the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, and a dedicated site staff all pulling together.

The Rome City community is helping draw attention and promote the area in several ways. The town has adopted the logo "Welcome to Rome City on the shores of Sylvan Lake, Limberlost - North". In her writings Mrs. Porter would refer to this home as Limberlost - North, Cabin in the Wildflower Woods.

The east-west road to the Gene Stratton-Porter Site carries two separate road numbers - 850 on the west end and 900 on the east end. To aid the tourist and clarify the matter we are proposing that the entire road be named "Limberlost Road".

Gene Stratton-Porter Chautauqua Days will be from July 30th thru August 16, 1992. The "Chautauqua Princess" will again be on Sylvan Lake and groups wanting more information on the activities may call (219) 854-2982 or write: Chautauqua Days Committee, P.O. Box 22, Rome City, IN 46784. Tickets go on sale May 4, 1992.

The historic site will be operating on a very tight budget in 1992 and 1993. The legislature did not provide funds to replace the employee we had in 1989 nor were funds provided to stay open year round. Even with the cuts we are determined to grow and continue to be a wonderful place to visit. Our hours for 1992 are:

March 17, 1992 thru November 30, 1992

Tuesday thru Saturday: 9:00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Sunday : 1:00 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

(Last Tours begin at 4:30 P.M.)

SPECIAL EVENTS, 1992

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 1992 - WILDFLOWER WALK

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16, 1992 - BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1992 - FALL FOLIAGE WALK

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 & 15, 1992 - CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

Gift Shop News

Gene Stratton-Porter Books

WINGS \$39.95

AFTER THE FLOOD 6.25

SITE JEWELRY \$ 4.15

Label pin, Brooch,

Tie Tack, Stick

Pin, Key Chains

(Prices include Indiana State Sales Tax)

"THIS and THAT"

Poems from MUSIC OF THE WILD by Gene Stratton-Porter

THE ORCHARD MOTH

When the sun has gone to rest,
And the moon rears her shining crest,
The night moth courts in orchard glade,
To the screech owl's wavering serenade.

ROYALTY IN THE ORCHARD

The apple-tree becomes a Palace
When the Queen-bird builds her throne,
And a doughty soldier the King-bird,
As he stoutly guards his own.

MOTHER ROBIN

When sleepy-time comes in Robin-town,
Four little heads covered with down,
Under the feathers of mother's breast,
Close against her heart are pressed.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a song called "Sylvan Lake Waltz" by J.F.King published in
Wolcottville, IN.

The following songs match Mrs.Porter's novels:

"Laddie" - Words by J.Fred Lawton & music by Luella Lockwood Moore

"Freckles" - by Cliff Hess, Howard Johnson & Milton Ager

"Girl of the
Lumberlost" - by Richard W. Pascoe, Hans Van Holstein & Richard A. Whiting

"We welcome any tidbits, articles, information and pictures that
you wish to contribute to the newsletter."

DUES TIME

It is time to renew your membership. If you have already sent it in, Thanks a Million! If you haven't please do so today and while you are at it why not send a membership in for a special friend or relative who is also a Gene Stratton-Porter fan.

The Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society has been very supportive of the site in the past and the site needs that support even more in the coming year. In 1991 the Society provided funds for the entertainers at both the Birthday Celebration and Christmas Open House; refreshments at both the Wildflower and Fall Foliage Walks; flowers in the formal gardens; and publicity in the Northeastern Travel guide and local newspapers.

The Northeastern Indiana Travel Guide has been a great media in which to promote Gene Stratton-Porter. The 1992 Guide is being distributed at the following out of state trade shows: Chicago Boat, Sports & RV Show; St. Louis Boat & Sports Show; Cleveland American and Canadian Sport, Travel & Outdoor Show; and Grand Rapids Center Boat Show. The guides are distributed to area tourist attractions and at the site.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|----------|
| STUDENT | \$ 1.00 | Enclosed |
| SINGLE | 7.50 | Enclosed |
| FAMILY | 10.00 | Enclosed |
| LIFE - SINGLE | 100.00 | Enclosed |
| LIFE - FAMILY | 150.00 | Enclosed |
| SUSTAINING | 20.00 | Enclosed |
| NON-PROFIT ORG. | 25.00 | Enclosed |
| BUSINESS | 50.00 | Enclosed |

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

GENE STRATTON-PORTER MEMORIAL SOCIETY, INC.

BOX 639

ROME CITY, IN 46784



"Amberlost - Youth"
"on the shores of Silver Lake"



Gene Stratton-Porter Productions

Main Office
609 North Western Ave.

Los Angeles



Gene Stratton-Porter

Fifty million readers have endorsed the stories of genuine, every-day Americans, as they have been told in the books of Gene Stratton-Porter. The film versions, her own productions, answer the demand of the public for sincerity, wholesomeness and convincing red-blooded screen entertainment.

*The pleasure of your company
is requested at the
Annual Gene Stratton-Porter
Memorial Society Dinner
Tuesday, May 12, 1992
6:30 p.m.*

*at the
Bone City United Methodist Church*

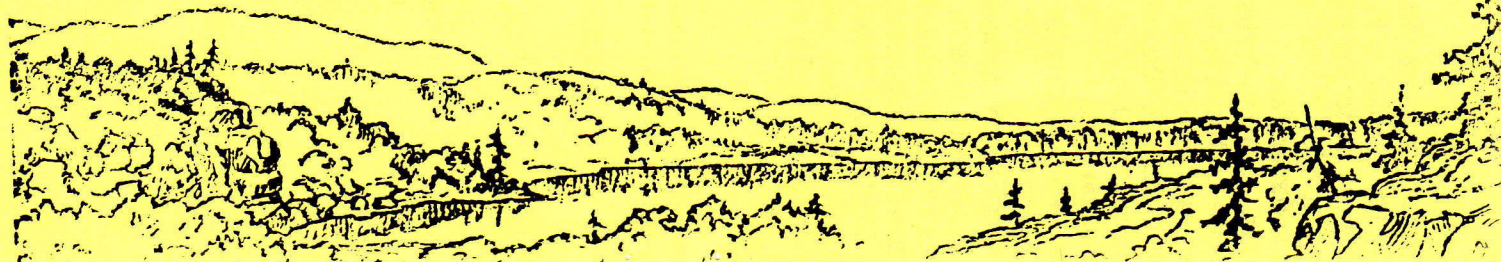


Her Novels

Michael O'Halloran
The Harvester
A Girl of the Limberlost
Laddie
Her Father's Daughter
Frackles
At the Foot of the Rainbow
The Fire Bird
A Daughter of the Land

Over 10,000,000
copies of her books
have been sold

Reservation Cards will be
Sent at a Later Date



ROME CITY

Rome City offers tranquility along Sylvan Lake



The Limberlost was home to naturalist-author Gene Stratton-Porter.

By MARLA SUTTO

The tranquil community of Rome City, three miles north of U.S. 6 on Ind. 9, sits nestled next to Sylvan Lake. The sparkling lake covers 635 acres and is surrounded by the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historical Site and Brady's Landing. The town is located in Orange Township.

HISTORY: The town was officially laid out and named in 1839 by John Mather and Ebenezer Pierce. The town's name comes from a job foreman who was trying to convince the Irish laborers to get along with French laborers working on the dike that stretches from near Northport to Rome City by telling them they must cooperate and "do as the Romans do." The name stuck and "City" was added later by the post office to avoid confusion with another town of Rome in the southern part of the state.

The town has a rough past, with the infamous outlaw Gregory McDougal, who was a suspect in many area break-ins, arsons and horse thefts. He was tried and found guilty of murder in Ligonier. He was the first and only person hung in Noble County.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the town became famous as a weekend and summer resort. One famous visitor who turned resident was naturalist-author Gene Stratton-Porter, who bought a 120-acre estate, called "The Limberlost," which is preserved as a state memorial in her honor.

The town is also famous for the growing Chautauqua Days Festival.

POPULATION: 1,138.

GOVERNMENT: A three-member town council which meets the first Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. Current members are Marilyn Alligood, president, Bill Creigh and Dave Abbott.

SERVICES: Sewer service is provided, water and garbage are not. An all-volunteer fire department is available for Orange Township.

EDUCATION: Students in kindergarten through eighth grade attend Rome City School, with the nickname the Romans. It has a Head Start program. High school students attend East Noble High School in Kendallville.

RECREATION: The town had a strategic plan done recently which has emphasized the town's ability to attract tourists with more recreational activities. Currently the town has the Limberlost Country Club, Kelly Park and the Chautauqua Days Festival held in mid-August.

SHOPPING: Limited shopping services include several specialty stores, a bank and a grocer.

ACCESS: Ind. 9.

TAXES: The rate requested by the town for 1992 is \$9.17 per \$100 worth of property, which will probably drop when they are set in January.

POLICE: Town Hall, Sheriff Bill Warford, 854-3113, or off hours, emergency only, 911.

FIRE: Orange Township Fire Department, Weston Avenue, emergency only: 854-3441, office: 854-3875.

SEWER: Town Hall, or call 854-2175.

TOWN CLERK: Clara Crozier, Town Hall, 123 Kerr Ave. Hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 854-2412.

LIBRARY: The Orange Township Branch Library is a branch of the Kendallville Public Library under director Doris Goins. It is located on the corner of Ind. 9 and Washington Street, 854-2775. Open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesdays 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

POST OFFICE: It is currently located inside the Orange Township Public Library, but will soon be moving to its own location on Kerr Avenue, across from the Town Hall.

SCHOOL: Rome City School is located on Jefferson Avenue, 854-3241.

The Board met in September and November to discuss the Society's support for the upcoming events at the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site.

They discussed and approved selling handmade butterflies and angels at the Christmas Open House as a money making project.

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Treasurer's report: | Checking | \$2209.37 |
| | 5.5% 6mo CD | 1000.00 |
| | 6 mo CD | 3000.00 |
| | General Savings | 1259.40 |
| | Program Savings | 428.13 |

Rome City council looks over strategic plan

By MARLA SUTTO

ROME CITY — The strategic plan for Rome City, a guide the residents of the town can use for implementing improvements, was presented to the Rome City Town Council Monday by Region III-A Development District representative Regan Ford.

The 181-page plan cost the town \$1,500. Last fall interested residents formed committees on government, economic development, cultural activities and other areas to determine what must be done to help the town. They submitted their ideas and Region III-A put the ideas into book form divided into goals and implementation of those goals.

"It's the community's choice, whether they want to use it or let it sit on a shelf and collect dust," Ford said. "This plan clearly sets goals and objectives, when they can be implemented and possible funding sources."

One of the goals, a community theme, has already been accomplished. The theme "Lumberlost North" was adopted by the town to capitalize on the Gene Stratton-Porter State Historical Site nearby.

"The council and its committees will follow this as a road map for Rome City," said Marilyn Alligood, Town Council president. "I can guarantee you we will use it."

To provide better organization, the plan suggests the hiring of a town manager to coordinate the town departments and oversee implementation of the strategic plan.

Other responsibilities of the town manager would include working with civic groups and other governmental agencies to coordinate activities, work on obtaining grants for the town and promote economic development.

One priority is to make tourism a cornerstone of the economy.

Suggestions included letting an updated park department develop a walking trail between the town and the Porter site, a biking trail with bike rentals between the town and the site, obtaining land or assisting a private owner of land available for camping, and sponsoring activities such as golf and fishing tournaments.

Other suggestions include purchasing land for RV camping between the town and the historic site, developing a nursery and examining other communities with similar activities and plans.

Another area addressed in the plan includes promoting the redevelopment of Kneipp Springs into a resort establishment.

The land is currently occupied by The Way College.

Other areas address how to provide a clean, healthy environment, updating ordinances dealing with zoning and enforcement, providing better housing and improve the beauty and livability of the community.

Ten copies of the book were presented to the town. Extra copies are available for \$10.

Also Monday, Ford presented five copies of the Rome City community promotion booklet. Region III-A Development did books on 27 cities and towns and five counties answering basic questions businesses or industries looking to locate there would need to know.

That book will be updated every six months to a year, Ford said.

"It provides a profile summary," Ford said. "We put it together in-house and I think it will serve Rome City well if it gets in the hands of people eager to promote the town."

Extra copies of the promotional booklet are available from Region III-A for \$15.

In other news, it was announced that the Gene Stratton-Porter Chautauqua Festival Committee has been awarded a grant for \$8,046 from the Indiana Tourism, Information and Promotional Fund. The Chautauqua committee has matched that for a total promotional package of about \$16,000. The money will be used mainly for advertising and promotion on television, radio, in newspapers and brochures.

Preliminary work was begun when the committee applied for the grant, according to committee leader Teddie McCoy. The state will send guidelines on the use of the money.

"We know that all the promotion must be to draw people from outside Noble County," McCoy said. "We want to target Michigan, Ohio, Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and some parts of Illinois."

The tour bus industry is one large group the committee would also like to target.

"We're working with surrounding hotels and bed and breakfasts to let potential tourists know what is available," McCoy said. "I know this will help the area economically. We also need area restaurants to contact us."

A letter from Lt. Gov. Frank O'Bannon notified the committee of the award and praised the committee for their efforts.



Alligood