

GENE STRATTON-PORTER MEMORIAL SOCIETY, INC.



SUMMER 2002

P.O. BOX 639 • ROME CITY, IN 46784

My Memories of Margie . . . We'll miss you.

As you know, or have probably heard, Margie Sweeney will be leaving the Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site at the end of August. She has been our curator for twenty-nine years.

She feels that due to her recent illness, it's time to take some time off. We all disagree, but, part of Margie's charm is that she has a lot of determination. Before 1973 when Margie became curator, the site was in no way what it is today. Margie tells us she did not accomplish this change alone. Due to the community staff, society and state personnel, she was able to accomplish all these great things.

Margie had this dream of bringing Gene Stratton-Porter's body home, back to her favorite resting place, where it is now. Gene had requested that when she passed away she wanted to be buried at the place she is today — and Margie is so pleased and delighted that the grandsons (Jim and John Meehan) wanted to fulfill this wish of their grandmother; but, also wanted their mother, Gene's daughter Jeanette, to accompany her mother Gene to their final resting place in Wildflower Woods. Margie had met Jeannette in 1973 in California.

Another dream of Margie's was to rebuild the carriage house that once was here. And to think the Memorial Service for Gene and Jeanette and the dedication of the Carriage House were on the same day — Gene and Jeanette's family (the Meehan's and their children) were here to commemorate this date. Margie said, "What a dream come true!"

Margie also formed the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society as we know it today. It was the first society formed within the state museum system. As you know, we have many of Gene's belongings that we

have helped to acquire. The society's purpose is to support the site in historic truth for the betterment of our site. We are always willing to help with the findings of true artifacts. Margie always says "What would I do without my society? Thank you!"

Besides her 29 years experience at Limberlost North, she spent 3-1/2 years as curator at the Geneva Limberlost Historic Site. Berne and Geneva were places where Margie and her family spent their earlier years.

I've known Margie and have been friends with her for many years. We've worked together with the American Legion Auxillary and many community functions where Margie received wonderful support from the community and was an excellent representative of the site. She has been Grand Marshall of the Chautauqua Parade, she helped to organize the Miss Limberlost Pageant, gave it its name, and been active with it for 26

years. She has received state and county awards.

Senator Meeks and Rep. Sturtz have been very supportive of Margie and the site. At one of our annual meetings, Senator Meeks referred to Margie as "the best curator in the state" (Margie laughed).

I have never talked to anyone around Rome City who didn't appreciate all the things Margie does and who doesn't have the greatest respect for her.

My memories of Margie will always be of her smile along with great enthusiasm, compassion, and her determination to make this site very special to all.

President Fran



GIFT SHOP

Come browse your gift shop! You can purchase any of Gene's novels, "Song of the Cardinal", "Freckles", "Girl of the Limberlost", "Laddie", Michael O'Halloran", "Daughter of the Land", "Her Father's Daughter", or "At the Foot of the Rainbow" to add to your collection or give as a gift.

Among the books on Indiana are: "Wildflower of Indiana", "Orchids of Indiana", "Destination Indiana", "Amazing Tales from Indiana" and "Indiana Folklore".

For that special occasion may we suggest:

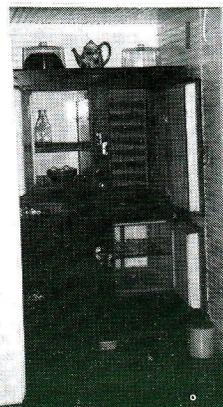
- A lovely amber necklace
- A Vera Bradley handbag or
- A unique hummingbird feeder

There are gifts for all ages in the shop. Remember everytime you make a purchase you contribute to your Society and to the historic site.

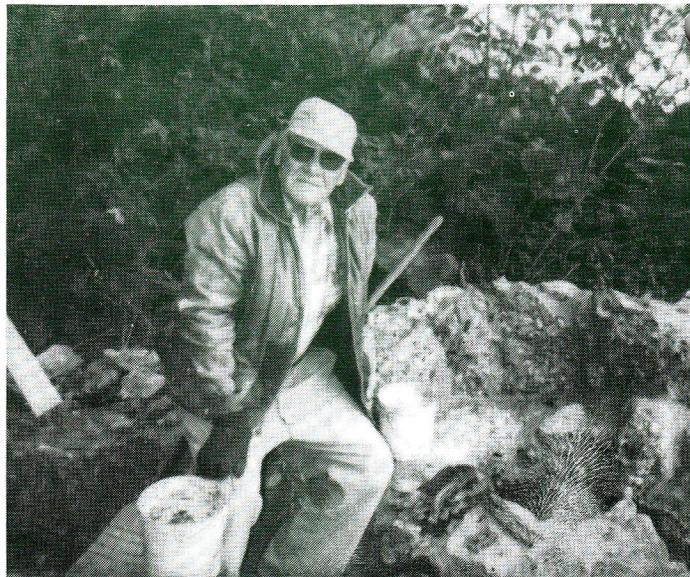


Restoring a Treasure

Using Gene's description of her kitchen from "Let Us Highly Resolve", we have been restoring the kitchen. There is an island in the middle of the room, the top half of the walls and ceiling are a sky blue, and you can view the wonderful McCray Icebox. Even though the restoration is not complete, the kitchen, which everyone always wanted to see, is now part of the Cabin tour.



Happenings at Wildflower Woods



A big thank you to the Society for providing the labor to repair the entrance pillars and spring which Gene had originally helped to build. Carl Knafel, a local stonemason, did the repairs. Now for years to come, visitors can view and admire the pillars and spring.

The Society purchased a washer and dryer so that the staff can continue to wash the curtains and other items on the property rather than taking them to their homes. It saves time and we must appreciate the convenience. Thanks so much!

The back porch of the cabin has been repaired thanks to volunteer help.

A big thank you to Andy Marfurt, Judy Westling's son-in-law and family, for relaying the limestone slabs around the garden pond. It really looks nice.

Pat, Sharon and volunteers have painted the southeast end and side of the Carriage House and areas on the Cabin and garage. This was made possible with the loan of a lift from State Parks. Thanks for a job well done.

Pat built and installed a cascading water fountain in the small pond. Now you hear the relaxing, musical tinkling of water as you come and go from the carriage house. Thanks Pat!

Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society Annual Meeting

The Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society Annual Meeting was held May 14, 2002 at the Rome City Methodist Church. The food was wonderful and the program was fascinating. Officers were elected: Fran Umbaugh - President, John Kessen - 1st Vice President, Ginny Roesler - 2nd Vice President, Lyn Edholm - Secretary, Judy Richter - Treasurer, and Guy Swartzlander - Member-at-Large.



1st GO FISHIN PROGRAM

The 1st GO FISH IN program was very successful with 18 children in attendance, ranging in age from 5 through 13. One family came from Kalamazoo and stayed for the afternoon Swamp Stomp as well. After an indoor learning session about fish and fishing, the group went outside for practice casting. The last part of the morning was spent out on the piers in 20+ mph winds, fishing.

Riley Karst caught the first fish about a 13" bass. Later Riley caught a second, smaller bass. Neal Stangland caught a sunfish & Spencer Richter, a perch. All the fish were released and everyone had a great time.

This year the Swamp Stomp had more children in attendance than adults. Pat and Ed led the group in fun and adventure. All were quite muddy when they returned.

Our new volunteer program is up and running. The organizational meeting was a huge success. Over 15 interested and eager people attended and several more are on our list who couldn't make the

The Porters



meeting. Gene Stratton-Porter is now an official site for RSVP, so our senior volunteers have some additional nice benefits. Our goal is to have people trained and on the grounds for Gene's Birthday and Margie's Party. If you are interested or have questions, call John or Cheri Kessen at (260) 854-2988

TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF JULY, 2002

Operating Checking Account	\$ 3,961.31
Operating Savings Account	1,992.29
Program Savings Account	1,527.23
Land Acquisition	798.15
Operating CD #1	3,000.00
Operating CD #2	1,000.00
Operating Total	\$12,278.98
Gift Shop Checking	\$18,487.01
Gift Shop CD #1	5,000.00
Gift Shop Monies	\$23,487.01
TOTAL FUNDS	\$35,765.99



Standing in front of the Sylvan Belle is (1 to r) Pat Bolman, Margie Sweeney, John Kessen, Gordon Gregg (Porter). The Sylvan Belle is available for pontoon rides Tuesday through Saturday 11:00 to 2:00 and Sunday at 2:00.

PLEASE NOTE: If you see a star on your mailing label, we have you listed as dues unpaid this year. If this has been a mistake, please call 854-3790

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, Inc.

Single \$10.00

Family 15.00

Sustaining 20.00

Non-Profit Org. 25.00

Business 25.00

Life (40 yrs. of age or older)

Single 100.00

Husband & Wife 150.00



**P.O. Box 639
Rome City, IN 46784
1-260-854-3790**

Name _____

Business or Organization Name _____

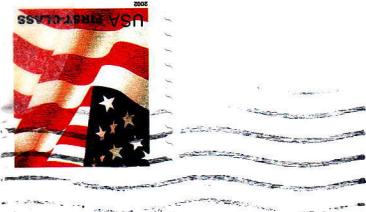
Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Phone _____



GENE STRATTON-PORTER MEMORIAL SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 639 • ROME CITY, IN 46784
(260) 854-3790

We are sure that you are aware that our own Gene Stratton-Porter Historic Site is a part of the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources. In this way we are grouped with the State Museum as well as the other historic sites around the state. The Director of Indiana Historic Sites has requested that we provide a membership listing to that office. If you do not want your name on that list, please notify us by August 31 at the return address on this newsletter mailing.

**Gene Stratton-Porter
STATE HISTORIC SITE**
Limberlost North, Rome City, Indiana

EVENTS 2002

**Tea Party
at the Carriage House**

August 12, times to be announced
A traditional tea with refreshments and entertainment. Reservations required.
Tickets on sale June 4, 2002

**Gene Stratton-Porter
Chautauqua Birthday Events**

August 17
139th birthday celebration for naturalist,
Gene Stratton-Porter.
(Activities and times to be announced).

**Fall Foliage Walk
and Family Fun Night**

October 12
Activities and time to be announced.

Holiday Open House

Site decked out for the holidays.
Entertainment and refreshments.
Activities and times to be announced.

Saturday, November 16, 9am - 9pm

Candlelight Walk, 6pm - 9pm
Sunday, November 17, 12 noon - 5pm

BE SURE TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE

<http://www.genestratton-porter.com>