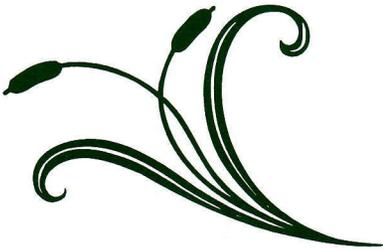


GENE STRATTON-PORTER MEMORIAL SOCIETY, INC.

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 1997

BOX 639
ROME CITY, IN 46784



Please Plan to Attend
THE ANNUAL MEETING
of the
**GENE STRATTON-PORTER
MEMORIAL SOCIETY, INC.**

Tuesday -- May 13, 1997 -- 5:30 p.m.

Location:

Rome City United Methodist Church
Rome City, Indiana

Dinner:

Chicken Dinner
prepared by the Methodist women.

Cost:

\$7.00 each including tax and tip.

Agenda:

Fellowship, Business Meeting, Reports

Program:

Prose: Daughter of the Land

By: Kristin Anderson

Do-Little-Dulcimers

Ed Cable & Pat Bolman

**GENE STRATTON-PORTER
STATE HISTORIC SITE
SEASON OPENS MARCH 15, 1997**

After being in hibernation since last December the site is now open for the season. We had lots of cold weather, down to -8° several days, and plenty of snow and ice, so we are all glad spring has arrived.

Ice fishermen have had a ball this winter thanks to the ice and good catching (fishing and catching are two different things). Fishermen start early in the day and it is quite a sight to see the little firefly lights from their lanterns in the dark of the early morning. These little lights look like stars and sometimes you almost feel like the world is upside down. The fishermen's cars would fill the parking lot and also be parked along both roads.

It has been too cold and nasty to work outside much but when the weather breaks Pat and his crew will be extra busy with the usual cleanup. An added chore this year is the repair of the arbor. The weight of the snow and ice broke a number of cross bars in the middle of the arbor and much of the vine roof collapsed. Replacing these logs will not be an easy job but if anyone can do it Pat and his workers will.

The office was busy as usual with all the normal paperwork and planning for the 1997 season. In this news letter are listed the 1997 site events and we hope you will be able to attend all of them. We look forward to seeing you!

• **NEW BROCHURES** •

Twenty thousand brochures promoting the site have been received. An authorized company will distribute the brochures at rest stops on the interstate, in motels, restaurants, and businesses in the surrounding area. Margie, Martha, Pat and Guy distributed them at the Fort Wayne Travel & Boat Show March 13-16, 1997. The

brochure is designed by Jim McKibben, a graphic artist in New York City and Martha's son, and printed locally. We are proud of our professional brochure and it has produced excellent results in the past three years. The Society underwrites the cost of the brochures and their distribution.

GIFT SHOP • NEW ITEMS!!

MICHAEL O'HALLORAN (paper) \$14.95 plus tax
MICHAEL O'HALLORAN (cloth) \$27.95 plus tax

New nature, gardening and herb books.

New games and activities.

New jewelry featuring butterflies, birds and insects.

Spice scented towels, potholders, etc. with nature designs.

Handmade glass paper weights and candle holders from
the Zimmerman Glass Works in Corydon, Indiana.

If you haven't stopped by to see our new Gift Shop please
do, you will be pleasantly surprised!

Dear Frank,

We have been in the new Cabin about two weeks and nearly all we possess has found its permanent location except pictures and curtains. On these I am going slowly. But you may think of us as toasty warm and happy. On these days Lorene and I go from window to window to see the picture of the snow gracefully whirling through the big trees in Wildflower Wood and nights of white moonlight are so lovely the sight actually hurts.

I shall wait to tell you about my plans for spring planting when you come, which I hope is very soon. You will enjoy seeing my feathered friends feasting on the suet, nuts and parings that they always find on the sill of the conservatory window. I have titmice, chickadees, nuthatches, sap suckers, flickers and cardinals there daily.

Have had no time as yet, for picture taking, but I've seen signs and wonders and miracles in Wildflower Woods this winter just waiting to be recorded with my camera in the spring.

I am expecting to begin my new novel this week and when a new book is aborning, as you know, all things at the Cabin must be pushed into the background. Wish me luck.

Gene Stratton-Porter

(A letter to Frank Wallace, tree surgeon, for Gene Stratton-Porter at Wildflower Woods.)

STANDING ROOM ONLY!

It was wonderful to have the room full to overflowing with Gene Stratton-Porter fans to watch the premier of "Gene Stratton-Porter: A Voice of the Limberlost." Violinist Phil Larimer provided music both before and after the viewing. Producers Ann Eldridge and Nancy Carlson conversed with the guests as they were enjoying the delicious cake and punch provided by the Legion Auxiliary. The Rome City American Legion and Legion Auxiliary were great hosts.

The video is available in our gift shop for \$19.95 plus tax.

ITEMS FOR GSP COLLECTORS!

A limited number of bookmarks advertising the 1934 movie "Girl of the Limberlost" are available from:

Joel Cadbury
610 Donald's Drive
Ithaca, NY 14850

"Caxtonian", Journal of The Caxton Club of Chicago featured Gene Stratton-Porter in their December 1996 issue. Copies of this issue are available in the site gift shop for \$1.00.

A Swamp Foray

It was a most marvelous adventure! Jess Fleck, who owns the swamp and woods where Gene studied and collected many of her specimens, stopped by the office and offered to give us a tour of this area. So on a perfect Spring day Margie, Pat, Guy and Martha drove to the north side of Sylvan Lake to Jess's. Now if we could have walked on water it would have been a short distance across Sylvan Lake from the cabin. There was Jess and shortly his sister-in-law, Carmen, arrived with our transportation, a wagon pulled by a donkey (Bernie) and a mule (Friday). Up we went for our ride up hill and through dale. We stopped where Gene docked her boat and watched the geese, ducks and swans, saw the beaver and muskrat houses, and listened to the Music of the Wild. As we went up the hill to the place where the Indian village had been Jess announced that it was time for lunch and when we crested the hill the aroma of a wood fire and food cooking hit us. This was no sack lunch, but delicious potato salad and shish kabobs and baked beans cooked over the open fire by another sister-in-law Belynn, from the Philippines. Here we sat overlooking the swamp and headwaters of the Elkhart River stuffing ourselves, watching the young nephews, Chris and Mike, at play, and talking with great people. You would have thought we were miles from civilization as you couldn't hear a car or a boat, but we weren't more than a mile from the busy county road. All good times come to an end. Time to leave. We had eaten so much that Bernie and Friday had trouble pulling the wagon back to our car and reality. We were expecting an enjoying experience, but Jess, his family and friend, John, gave us much more than that, they gave us a wonderful day to remember always! If you can't find us, maybe we are back in time with Jess along the river listening to nature, imaging life with the Indians or with Gene finding another wildflower to transplant in Wildflower Woods.

CARRIAGE HOUSE NEWS

After nearly 2 years of work by Pat Bolman, your Board, and your President, on May 22, 1996, I.R.S. finally assigned a not-for-profit 501(C)(3) to the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society, Inc. This means that gifts for the Carriage House rebuilding project are tax deductible to the donor and that we can accept grants from foundations

Several log home companies have been contacted and basic final plans will be coming soon. With plans in hand, grant requests will be submitted to foundations and it is hoped that enough monies will be awarded so we can start construction by late summer or early fall. The structure will be 56' x 36' and will be built on the site of the original carriage house. The lake end will be designed so that the original foundation will be visible.

On the first floor will be the entrance, restrooms, and 2 rooms for lectures and artifact displays. In the future the office and gift shop might be located here. A stairway and a lift will provide access to the second floor. The second floor will have a large room for lectures, programs, and displays (at present many artifacts cannot be displayed due to lack of space), restrooms and a small kitchenette.

The building will be heated and air conditioned. It is basic in design with no frills in order to keep the costs as low as possible.

ANNUAL MEETING DINNER RESERVATIONS

In this news letter is a return card for dinner reservations for the Gene Stratton-Porter Memorial Society's Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 1997 at 5:30 p.m. at the Rome City United Methodist Church.

Please plan to attend and please return your reservation card by Tuesday, May 7th, 1997.

Thank-you.

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

- Single \$7.50 Business \$50.00
 Family \$10.00 Life (40 yrs. of age or older)
 Sustaining \$20.00 Single \$100.00
 Non-Profit Org. \$25.00 Husband & Wife \$150.00

Thank You!

WHERE OUR MEMBERS ARE FROM

Indiana	147	Wisconsin	7
Michigan	19	West Virginia	5
Ohio	9	Oregon	2
California	10	North Carolina	1
Pennsylvania	4	Nebraska	1
New York	5	Illinois	2
Texas	6	New Jersey	2
Tennessee	1	Colorado	1
Vermont	1	Canada	2
Florida	1		

Total Membership 225

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 1, 1997

Checking	\$ 943.99
Operating Savings	111.98
Program Savings	149.54
Carriage House	1560.02
Miss Limberlost C.D.*	1000.00
Operating C.D.	<u>3000.00</u>
Total	\$6765.53

*I.R.S. 501 (C)(3) Regulations prohibit this. Board action will change this at next board meeting.

GENE STRATTON-PORTER MEMORIAL SOCIETY
BOX 639
ROME CITY, INDIANA 46784
(219) 854-3790

1997 EVENTS

Wildflower Walk

A walk through Wildflower Woods guided by Naturalist Pat Bolman.
Walk starts at the shelter.
Refreshments served.
Donation appreciated.
May 3, 1 pm

Gene Stratton-Porter's Limberlost North Foray

Join Naturalist Pat Bolman on a visit to the original swamp at Limberlost North, where Gene studied and collected plant and animal life. Prepare to get wet - bring insect repellent.
Foray starts at the shelter.
Refreshments served.
Donation appreciated.
June 28, 2pm

Gene Stratton-Porter Chautauqua Days

Activities and times to be announced.
August 1-17

Tea Party at Gene's Garden
A traditional tea overlooking Gene's formal gardens with refreshments and entertainment.
August 4, 2pm

Gene Stratton-Porter's Birthday Celebration
Activities to be announced.
August 17, 10am-5pm

Fall Foliage Walk

Observe the fall foliage with Naturalist Pat Bolman. Walk starts at the shelter.
Refreshments served.
Donation appreciated.
October 4, 1pm

Holiday Open House

Music and entertainment.
Holiday refreshments served.
Donation appreciated.
Friday, November 14, 9am-5pm
Saturday, November 15, 9am-9pm
Candlelight Walk 6pm-9pm
Sunday, November 16, 11am-5pm

Guided Tours of the Cabin are conducted
March 11-December 14, 1997

Tuesday-Saturday: 9am-5pm
Sunday: 1pm-5pm
Monday: Closed

Last Tour begins at 4:30pm

Open Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day

Closed Easter Sunday and Thanksgiving Day

Grounds are open dawn to dusk
Admission is your donation
Gift Shop
Picnic Facilities

Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site
Limberlost 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