

# THE STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

MAY 2014



## FGCHM Turns 10!

It's hard to believe that the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum turns ten years old this year. We have come such a long way since Carol Bird, Muriel Grima, and Mary Jane Schildburg came up with the plan to purchase the Straight Farmhouse.

Within two years of the purchase, the Lather's General Store was opened, the Historical Museum was moved from the Log Cabin in City Park to the Straight Farmhouse, By Laws were written and a Board of Directors was in place.

Currently the Straight Farmhouse receives over 2,600 visitors annually, receives over 12,000 annual views of our website, receives 5-10 inquiries per month via the website, publishes 3-4 newsletters per year, hosts multiple special exhibits/events per year; the list goes on and on!

We are very excited about our future, and very thankful to all of our volunteers and supporters.

We could not have done it without you.



*The photo to the right was taken at the top of the entrance stairs looking south towards what would eventually be the entrance to the Grande Parlour. The Grande Parlour was originally five offices. The walls that separated the offices were torn down in 2005 to create one large room— The Grande Parlour.*

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### **A Hard Winter**

We are ALL glad to see spring coming. It was a long hard winter, especially on our budget here at the Straight Farmhouse (higher utility bills, high snow plow bills, etc.). Now is a great time to encourage people you know to become members, participate in our support plan, or make special donations.



## **Garden City- The Beginning DVD Available Now!**

Jack Kerstetter has completed recording a second DVD on the history of the City. This approximately 30-minute DVD covers Garden City when it was Nankin Township (1920) to The Village of Garden City (1927) to the City of Garden City (1933). It includes over 100 historic photos from the museum's archives with Jack's narration.

**On sale now in the Lather's General Store.**

If you would like to submit articles or announcements for consideration in the *Farmhouse Crier* please submit them via email to: [Straight.farmhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:Straight.farmhouse@yahoo.com)

## Museum 2nd Floor Research Room Expanded



Many thanks go out to our Historian, Jack Kerstetter, for his hard work and long hours in expanding the second floor Research Room at the Garden City Historical Museum. Jack built, painted, and installed new shelving for the numerous volumes of archives and records that will make research of Garden City history more visible and accessible to the visiting public. Jack also improved the display of old typewriters and adding machines within the expanded space. You are encouraged to make the time to visit the Straight Farmhouse and see the fruits of Jack's labor in person. We are truly grateful for Jack's dedication to the Garden City Historical Museum!

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## Board Member Deborah Eleson Submits Resignation

Sadly, a longtime FGCHM Board Member, Debbie Eleson, offered her resignation from the Board of Directors effective December 1, 2013. Debbie was appointed to the Board in November 2007 and served tirelessly during her term. Unfortunately, Debbie's full-time employment and family commitments made it impossible to devote the time she would like to FGCHM Board business. Debbie was instrumental in bringing the acting troupe "The Petticoat Ladies" to the Straight Farmhouse for various performances and fundraisers benefitting the Farmhouse. Her input and knowledge will be greatly missed.



*The above photo of Debbie was taken while she was in character as Mary Todd Lincoln at a Fourth of July Celebration at the Farmhouse*

## New FGCHM Board Members Appointed

At the Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum on January 8, 2014, the current Board of Directors unanimously voted to appoint Ms. Sharon Hassett and Mr. Michael Lawrence as Board members to serve a one year term. Sharon is currently the Chairperson of the Commission on Aging at Maplewood Senior Center and also is employed part-time as R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Garden City. Mike is retired and a well-known volunteer in Garden City and assists with the Food Commodities Program at Maplewood Center. Both Sharon and Mike bring valuable experiences and knowledge to the Board and we hope you get the opportunity to meet them on your next visit to the Straight Farmhouse.



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## New Display Cases in Toy Room



The new display cases have been assembled and installed in the toy room upstairs. That will now allow for the toy room exhibit to be improved. The new display cases will allow better viewing of the toys in our collection.

The rearranged exhibit should be complete by late summer. Stop by to see the toys in their new display.

### ...And the winner is:

While many visitors told us they could not choose just one, we have a winner!

Over 300 visitors voted, and the winner of the favorite Santa (from Dan Dare's collection recently on display) is: Santa on the Polar Bear! A close second was the Santa with the white dog.

Coming in third was Santa with the lion and the lamb.

**We hope you enjoyed this exhibit and voting for your favorite Santa.**



Be sure to circle the 2nd & 3rd Saturdays in June, July, August & September as the Summer Flea Markets will be returning to the Straight Farmhouse again in 2014. There will be lots of vendors set up in the open field to the south of the Farmhouse, as well as plenty of interesting merchandise for sale inside the Farmhouse. Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum volunteers will be selling coffee and baked goods on Flea Market days to benefit the Straight Farmhouse.



## **SUMMER FLEA MARKETS COMING SOON!**

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