

STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

VOL. 4, No. 3

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EDITORS: CAROL BIRD, SUE BIRD

Stock for the Museum

Wondering what to do with those few shares of stock that Aunt Sally or Uncle Josh left you? The stock you received through the de-mutualization of your insurance company or the stock you received through a dividend reinvestment program?

Chances are, you haven't any idea of the cost basis of the stock necessary for you to report on your income tax to figure out your capital gains taxes. There **is** a solution that would solve your problems and at the same time support the Straight Farmhouse efforts of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum.

We have made arrangements to receive stock donated to us through our account at Merrill Lynch.

The current value of the stock is deductible from your income tax because we are a registered 501(c)(3) entity. You can do this without the work and research needed to determine your original cost.

If you are interested in receiving more information on this, please give us a call.

(NOTE: The "Stock" article was submitted by John N. Santeiu, Jr. If you wish to call for more information, (734-838-0650), or contact us on our website, (www.sfonline.org), all inquiries will be forwarded to Mr. Santeiu.)



Debbie Eleson as Jessie Tarbox Beals, first woman news photographer

Support Plan Success

Our thirty-eight supporters of the Friends' Support Plan can congratulate themselves for having contributed over \$5000 thus far this year towards the support of the Straight Farm House and Museum!!

We absolutely could **not** have continued in our efforts to sustain the Farm House and Museum without your generosity. Thank you for deciding to be a part of our success!

If more of you would like to join us in choosing the Support Plan as your form of membership in the Friends, you can download a form from our web site: www.sfonline.org, or call us at 734-838-0650 to request that one be sent to you, or better yet -- come in and visit, tour the Museum, and then pick one up in person at the Straight Farm House.

We truly do need the help of your membership, since our monthly operating expenses average \$3200 per month!



A Charmer Or a Crank?

The Petticoat Ladies presented their usual superb performance for a very appreciative audience in November. Several guests commented on the fact that when the program began, they had no idea who the ladies being portrayed were, nor their place in our history, but by the time the performance ended, they had learned a great deal about each one. We are looking forward to their next presentation at our Farmhouse on May 16, 2008.



Volunteering

We have three new volunteers to tell you about and all three do their volunteering in their own preferable ways!

Debbie Eleson, one of the Petticoat Ladies of the Garden City Presbyterian Church has become a docent for our Museum on Wednesdays, and also is the newest member of our Board of Directors. She has also been willingly pressed into service behind the Lathers Store counter on occasion!

Alice Stutzman Geletzke helps either as a docent in the Museum or in the Lathers General Store on the first Saturday of each month. Growing up in Garden City has provided her with many memories and much information to share about earlier days.

Rose Freeman, retired Garden City Schools' teacher does whatever is needed every Saturday, whether it is as a docent, storekeeper, or performing housekeeping duties in the Grande Parlour, serving room, kitchen, Museum, and Store. This kind of help is very much appreciated!

So you can see that when we ask for volunteer help, YOU tell us when you prefer to help, YOU tell us what you prefer to do, and YOU tell us how often you can come in!! We don't tell you. And what is so very special about these three wonderful ladies is that we don't have to call them each time we need help. They are THERE!!

More help is needed in cleaning before and after rental parties -- vacuuming, mopping, dusting, and cleaning the bathrooms (yes, we have three, remember!). We would really like to have more volunteers who would be willing to open and close for the rental parties. We would be very happy to talk to you about the procedure if you would like to come in and talk to us! Consider yourselves needed!

Museum Tours

Guided tours of our Museum are outstanding, thanks to the expertise of Jack Kerstetter and Bill Brooks --- who also have helped Debbie Eleson, Rose Freeman, and Alice Stutzman become more comfortable as tour guides. Chuck Guisgand has stepped up to take visitors on tour, also, when we have been short of volunteers. We never get tired of hearing the positive comments of our visitors when they have finished a tour. Our docents are very dedicated to our Museum!!

An Early Christmas Gift From Special Friends



The American Legion Riders made a special gift to the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum recently. After settling all matters concerning their participation in their monument's dedication celebration in August 2007, they presented the Board of Directors with a check! This check represented money collected but eventually not needed by them. They wanted to use it to help us maintain the monument and brick-paver walkway, and our entire property as well. They know we constantly need money to support the Straight Farm House, and now we know, without a doubt, how much they care that we invited them to share their Veteran's Monument with us! Thank you, Riders!!



Our Ghost Event

The Ghostwatchers of Michigan determined in October that the Straight Farm House has not just one ghost, but three! They are already planning to make this event an annual one, and have had other "ghostly groups" contact them to see if they can tour and investigate the House, too. Watch for this event



next October. Black, spooky sweatshirts with long and/or short sleeves, various designs and sayings are now available for sale in our Lathers General Store. We also have little ghost pins, too.

Friends' Membership

Our forty-seven members who have opted to become Members of the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum using the regular one-time contributions have also been instrumental in helping us to maintain our monthly expenses. However, twenty-one members have not renewed yet for 2007, so if you find a membership envelope enclosed in this newsletter, you can safely assume this is a friendly reminder that we truly need your help! We hope you will continue to be a Friend and lend your support however you are able.

Our Brick Paver Walkway

We now have a total of 239 engraved bricks in our memorial walkway! The walkway had to be extended to accommodate the surge in bricks ordered to memorialize military veterans. These bricks surround the monument itself for the most part, and the walkway has been continued on towards the front of the Straight Farm House. There is plenty of room for those of you who would still like to participate in this fund-raising project. Viewing our walkway and monument is a very moving experience for most visitors. We invite you, again, to visit also and consider memorializing your loved ones by buying a brick paver.



We Are Indebted to Our Many Supporters & Sponsors

Our First Event July 4, 2004

Sponsors:

Accent Remodeling
Artman's Nursery, Inc.
Better Maids' Cleaning Service
Canton Fence Supply
Philip M. Cavanagh, WayCo Commissioner
Community Bank of Dearborn
Garden City Osteopathic Hospital
Horton's Tree Service
Jedi Baseball
Misty's Cards, Gifts & Bridal
Moonlight Printing
Sign A Rama Signs
Sinclair America Sunoco
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
The Builders Lodge #587 & Moose Lodge,
Hank Cable & Mrs. Phil Cavanagh
(two of the Cooks & their Grills!)

Event Supporters & Friends:

Frieda Affholter
Ingrid Anderson
Andrew Drugs
Anonymous
Clyde Bennett
Carol Bird
William Brooks & Family
Builders Lodge #587
James & Peggy Burklow
Donald & Vivian Chamberlain
June Closser
Kathleen Dryovage
Alice Geletzke
Robert & Beverly Gonzalez
Muriel Grima
Charles & Charlotte Guisgand
Marshall & Melanie Henry
Aldon & Alva Holk
Alice Johnson
John & Betty Kerstetter



Thomas & Jaylee Lynch
 Rick Mesler
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 Northville Waterford Bend
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 Jim Plakas
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 Tom Presnell
 Joyce Pullen
 Joy Razor
 Mandy Reed
 Harry & Iva Robertson
 Jean Procter
 Gerald Roosen
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 John III & Elizabeth Santeiu
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 Charles & Nancy Skinner
 Dan Stoner
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 Wayne & Phyllis Thomas
 Richard Warnock
 Barbara White
 Michael Wiacek
 Clifford & Barbara York
 Howard & Alma Zimmerman

Supporters & NEW Friends Since 2004

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 Bob & Deb Casey
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 Community Bank of Dearborn
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 Gerald, Susan & Diego Collins
 Patricia Collins
 Elizabeth Crowl
 Jack Demmer Ford, Inc.
 Pearl Downs
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 Kenneth Nielsen
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 Betty Nilsson

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 Cheryl Stepanian-Bussell
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 Laura Toy, Senator
 Anne Tracy
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 Dorothy Verduzco
 Virginia Vincent
 Dolores Rozsnyai Weems
 Lynn & Nichola Walker
 Rodney & Helen White



Our July 3rd Event 2005

Sponsors:

Barsamian Family Dentistry
 Burton & Sons, Inc.
 Horton's Tree Service
 Kurth Agencies, Inc.
 Sheridan Construction, Inc.
 Thrivent Financial for
 Lutherans
 And Hank Cable again for his
 extra efforts in making this a
 success!



Opening of the Grande Parlour Dec. 2005

Donors:

Jean & Merle Procter
 Sherwin Williams, Garden City
 Wade Trim of Taylor, MI
 Plante Moran of Ann Arbor, MI
 McKenna Associates of
 Northville, MI
 Carol Bird
 Muriel Grima

Volunteer Workers:

Charles Guisgand
 Joe DiMichele
 Lee Schildberg
 Marquette Family
 Friends Board of Directors

New Friends at this time:

Lynda Bancroft
 Judith Bedard
 John Corrigan
 David & Peggy Getto

Loree Goodwin
Marshall & Carol Hill
Betty Mann
Louis Resto
Eric Schooley
John Shivnen

**Celebration of History
May 24, 2007**

Sponsors:

The Friends of the Garden City
Historical Museum
The Garden City Chamber of
Commerce
Schoolcraft College

**New Friends in
2006 & 2007**

Cindy Blake
Tricia Cole
Jim Doddie
Lillian Durecki
Rose Freeman
Carl Gowan
Patricia Kroh

Carol Napier
Julia Naughton
Charles & Sally Neslund
Christopher Niemi
Brian Nowka
David & Maryann Presnell
Gary Simon
Elwin Straight
Susan Trottier
Nancy Vallimont
Marjorie & Ben Walker
Randy Walker
Beverly Wolff

**Members Who Have
Also Opted
For the Support Plan**

Affholter, Frieda
Anderson, Ingrid
Bedard, Judy
Bird, Carol
Bird, Susan
Brooks, William & Family
Chamberlain, Vivian
Collins, Gerald, Susan & Diego
Doddie, Jim
Dryovage, Kathleen

Freeman, Rose
Geletzke, Alice
Goodwin, Loree
Green, George & Janet
Grima, Muriel
Guisgand, Chuck & Charlotte
Hamilton, Orla
Johnson, Alice
Kerstetter, Jack & Betty
Kroh, Patricia
Mann, Betty
Marquette, Gerald & Kimberly
McKarge, Patricia
Merrifield, Dale
Neslund, Charles & Sally
Nilsson, Betty
Olson, Clifford & Shirley
Plakas, Jim & Dorothy
Porth, Joann
Presnell, David & Maryann
Procter, Jean
Reed, Mandy
Roller, Lillian
Rotary Club of Garden City
Schildberg, Mary Jane
Skinner, Chuck & Nancy
Sweda, Dorothy
Wolff, Beverly

*Thank you to all of our
Sponsors, Donors, Supporters & Members!*

Your belief in us has made our continuing success possible!

*Merry Christmas,
Happy Holidays,
& Happy New Year
to you all!!*

