

STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

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BECKWITH'S AIR-TIGHT STOVE MADE IN DOWAGIAC, MI -- 1928 MODEL

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The beautiful antique stove "installed" in our Lathers General Store was a gift from Charlotte and Charles Guisgand of Garden City. It originally heated the farm home of the Mork family on Mork Road in Sutton's Bay in the Leelanau Peninsula of Michigan. Charlotte's antecedents immigrated to Northern Michigan from Norway, and lived in a log cabin from 1896 until their home was built around 1900. The farmhouse is still standing, and in fact is a Centennial Farm with a family member still living there. Originally, oats and wheat were raised on the farm, but it now has a cherry orchard on approximately 200+ acres.

At the tender age of 3 years, Charlotte opened all the drafts one day which caused the stove and stovepipe to glow red-hot and which pleased her mightily. Her father was able to extinguish the chimney fire she caused and saved the house and she remembers that she was not punished -- being so young. The stove was so efficient that it heated two upstairs bedrooms above the stove (through holes cut in the bedroom floors) during the winter in addition to heating the main floor. A furnace was installed when Charlotte was 10 or 11 years old.

About 20 years ago, Charlotte and Chuck brought the stove to their home in Garden City and installed it in their garage to heat Chuck's workshop. Some time this past year, they decided to give it to the Straight Farm House, so Chuck refurbished it totally -- even installing a stovepipe and electric logs to lend an aura of authenticity to our 1866 store replica. The stove occupies a place of honor in our Lathers General Store. It is truly a "must-see" when you visit us! This most unselfish gift of the stove, and the labor expended to display it as it "was" are so very greatly appreciated by the Friends! Thank you, Charlotte and Chuck Guisgand.

~Vaudeville Show~

Plan to attend the Vaudeville Show presented in the Grand Parlour of the Straight Farm House for your enjoyment on October 13, 2006 at 7 P.M. Tickets are available in the Lathers General Store of the SFH and cost \$8.00 each.

The Vaudeville Troupe entertaining us are members of the "Petticoat Ladies" of the First Presbyterian Church of Garden City and their Assistant Pastor, playing the role of Ted Lewis -- who made "Me and My Shadow" famous.

Old-time refreshments will be offered for your pleasure.



If you attended our Civil War Tea in 2005, you know how entertaining and talented these ladies are, so please make plans to be with us on October 13th at 7 P.M.!!

Historical Commission Losses

We sadly report that we have lost our Chairman, John Niemi, and our Vice-Chairman, Francis M. Schmitt, DDS this past month. These fine gentlemen died within two weeks of each other. They will be missed.



LATHERS GENERAL STORE



QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS are still available in our store -- \$3.00 each or two for \$5.00. Also available are **Straight Farm House Mugs** which are \$5.00, **Pens** -- \$4.00, **2005 and 2006 Historic Calendars** -- \$1.00 each, **Pottery Tile** designed and made by our potter featuring the Straight Farm House -- \$20.00, and **Golf Shirts** with the "Garden City Historical Museum" imprinted -- \$10.00 or two for \$18.00 (sizes M, L, XL, XXL). And remember: **VAUDEVILLE TICKETS** may be purchased at the SFH, also -- \$8.00.

We have boutique and resale items, along with seasonal merchandise. Have you thought about your Christmas shopping needs yet?? We're ready for you!!



Friends' Membership Reaches Across America!

We have members in many communities in Michigan, plus California, Nevada, North Carolina, and Maryland.

This summer we were happy to have Loree Presnell Goodwin from Texas, her brother, David and his wife Maryann Presnell from North Carolina, and younger brother, Tom Presnell of Westland visit the Straight Farm House. Their parents came to Garden City in the 1920's and were very actively engaged in community activities and the formation of the First Baptist Church. Loree has promised to share her memories of the first Girl Scout troop formed in Garden City by Adelia Minor,



a highly respected teacher. I am hopeful that she will also consent to share her family's history with us for the Garden City Historical Museum's archives. It was great to see the Presnells again this summer!

The family histories in our archives are proving to be a most interesting part of our history. Do consider sharing your own! We have family-written histories, newspaper items and photos in our collection. We can be contacted online at <http://www.sfonline.org> and click on "Contact Us", or "snail mail" at 6221 Merriman Road, ATTN: Carol Bird.

New Member of the Friends' Board of Directors

State Representative Jim Plakas has joined our Board of Directors. He is limited by term limits to serve in the State Legislature and has readily agreed to help us in any way he can. We especially need his help with fund raising -- since we continue to struggle every month to fund operating expenses and pay the considerable mortgage.

Grande Parlour rentals are progressing steadily, but they can't do it alone!

We now have 75 Friends Members and their families in good standing, but their membership renewals can't do it alone.

The Lathers General Store generates money each month, but IT can't do it alone.

We continue to pursue Grants, but even these can't do it alone.

Enclosed, you will find a plan presented for your consideration by the Board of Directors. Please give it careful thought.

