

STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

VOL. 4, No. 2

FALL, 2007



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“Yes, Virginia”... there really IS a ghost in the Straight Farm House!!

Members of the Ghostwatchers of Michigan recently spent two evenings at our House to determine whether or not we really have a ghost. They decided that we do!! They will be presenting a program on October 20, 2007 at 7 p.m. to explain to all who gather in the Grande Parlour -- “What IS a Ghost?” Slides of pictures they have taken in our House will be shown and equipment they use in their searches will be explained. A few of us have had experiences we cannot explain! We hope they can! Seating will be limited, so plan to arrive in time to purchase your ticket (\$6) at the door and find a seat. There will be no advance sales of tickets. Light refreshments will be served and door prizes will be awarded.

This just in! A pewter ghost pin is available for purchase in the Lathers General Store for \$4!!

(You might like to check out the website of the Ghostwatchers: www.ghostwatchers.org/public/appearances.html)



Docents Are Still Needed!

We continue to need help in the Museum, the General Store, and the Grande Parlour. Your help will be appreciated whether you can come in once a month, or more. We have discovered that we need one person upstairs in the Museum, one person on the main floor to help visitors tour the Post Office, Dining Room, “Movie” Room, and two rooms of displayed artifacts and scrapbooks of our history, and many times, one more person to show the rental facility to prospective customers. (If Bill Brooks ever finishes a cup of hot tea, we'll be amazed!) It is really difficult for one or two people to “do it all”! Please consider helping us!



“A Charmer or a Crank”??

It will be up to you to decide which is which at the Petticoat Ladies presentation on November 9, 2007 at 7 p.m.

Once again, the Petticoat Ladies of the Garden City Presbyterian Church are graciously helping us with our fund raising by presenting this popular program. You will have to decide whether the historic lady they present was considered a charmer, or a crank. We undoubtedly will not only have fun watching their performance, but will learn a great deal in the process. Tickets, \$6, will be on sale in the General Store of the Straight Farm House and at the door. Light refreshments will be served. Do plan to attend -- and “step back in time” with us!

Folding Chairs Needed!!

We are in need of folding chairs for use in the Grande Parlour. We are anticipating “full houses” for our coming programs and would like to be able to seat everyone who wishes to experience these fine programs. If you have one or more to donate, we would very much appreciate your doing so! You could drop off your donated chair on any coming Wednesday or Saturday, noon to 3, and then visit us and the Museum. We'd love to see you!!

Dedication of the Flagpole & Monument

August 2, 2007 was a very moving and emotional evening for the large crowd of guests who gathered at the Straight Farm House to dedicate the new flagpole, donated by American Legion Post 396, and the monument, donated by the American Legion Riders. The decorative stone surrounding the monument was donated by 2007 high school graduate, Alan Marquette. Lighting for the flagpole and monument was done by Matt Squires and Greg Sandberg. The brick-paver walkway extension was installed by Michigan Pete in time for the dedication. We heartily thank Pete for his timely and, as always, top quality work!



The Monument, dedicated to all military personnel who have served in all branches of service in America, will have bricks purchased by the Legion Riders installed on the front side of the monument. The Riders' intention is to have military bricks surrounding the monument when the walkway is extended again around the monument. This newest contribution to the Straight Farm House property is definitely a "must see" event!



All who support and are involved with the Straight Farm House, the American Legion Post #396, and the American Legion Riders join in inviting everyone to "Please come back often to sit, to reflect, and to never forget!"

Raffle Winner News

The winning raffle ticket was drawn on August 18, 2007 at 1 p.m. (as promised) in the Lathers General Store of the Straight Farm House. Bill Brooks, Museum docent, Historical Commission member and all-around great volunteer held the "bowl" of tickets and a guest from an ongoing rental party was asked to draw the ticket. And the winner was -- Carol Bird. Now, you must understand, Carol was in the Garden City Park at the time hosting the Alumni Reunion with Jack Kerstetter and had nothing to do with the drawing. However, she is pleased to be the winner and will enjoy the "colors" up North in October at the Stonewaters Inn in Bellaire, Michigan. (Now -- if Carol's luck would hold and she could win the lottery, we could pay off the mortgage on the Straight Farm House...)



We Met Elwin Straight in July!



Elwin, the eldest child of C. Perry and Beulah Straight visited the Straight Farm House in July and declared that "...he spent a very enjoyable afternoon with

Carol, Muriel, and Jack." We most definitely enjoyed talking with him!

He is descended from Daniel Straight's brother, Charles. (Daniel was Oscar's father, who built the house at 6221 Merriman Road. Charles was the owner of the home atop the "Bomb Cellar" at Ford Road and Shotka.)

Quoting from his message to us at the end of July: "Elwin lived in Garden City from 1927, first on Pardo and then at the corner of Barton and Moeller. He attended both school numbers three and one. For four years, he delivered the Detroit News in the area bounded by Brown, Cherry Hill, Merriman, and Craig; then he worked in the old A&P as a checker and part time bookkeeper.

In 1944, he was drafted into the navy, serving in the Pacific area. He entered the University of Michigan in January 1947 receiving a BA in 1950 and MA in 1951. Immediately after, he left for the Washington, D.C. area where he worked for the Department of Defense until his retirement in 1984. He resides in Bethesda, Maryland."

Elwin -- we hope you visit us whenever you are visiting in Michigan again! Meeting you was truly a pleasure!



We Met Melvin Straight, too!

Melvin, Elwin's brother, visited the Farmhouse, too, when he drove down from his home "Up North" to attend the Alumni Reunion in the Garden City Park in August. He was delighted with the entire facility and our progress thus far. Melvin, we were happy to meet you!!

Rooms Still Available for Purchase!

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, our third major source of financial help has come from the sale of rooms in the Straight Farm House. Our latest and last purchase of a share in the Grande Parlour was made by David and Maryann Presnell, now living in North Carolina. Their names were added to the donor plaque, along with those of Jean Procter, the Marquette Family, the Boland Family, and the Collins Family. Their contribution -- or "purchase" -- is so very much appreciated by all of us! We thank these five families, especially, for enabling us to complete the Grande Parlour, making it a very popular rental facility for various events. It really is a beautiful room! Have you checked our website lately? (www.sfhonline.org)

Our Support Plan



We continue to be successful with our Support Plan memberships and are extremely grateful to all our members who have chosen to help us in this way!! Our newest Plan members are Jean Procter and Beverly Wolff. Thank You!!

(You can find a Support Plan form to download from our website, www.sfhonline.org by clicking on "Membership", if you are interested in becoming involved in this Plan. A form can also be picked up at the FarmHouse when you visit us.)