

STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER



VOL. 4, No. 4

SPRING, 2008

EDITORS: CAROL BIRD, SUE BIRD

Our String Quartet Concert

March 30, 2008, will be another first for the Friends of the Garden City Historical Museum! We are presenting the American



Romanian Festival String Quartet for the enjoyment of music lovers in our area. Marian Tanau, founder of the quartet, is not only a member of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, but also a professor of violin at Wayne State University

in Detroit. His good friend, supporter, and arranger of this benefit concert in support of the Straight Farm House, John N. Santeiu, Jr., is also a fellow American-Romanian.

The three other members of the Quartet are also performing artists with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra



State University, and Eastern Michigan University. Kyoko Kashiwagi will perform on violin, Eva Stern will perform on viola, and Paul Wingert will perform on cello.



and in addition are Professors of violin, viola, and cello on staff at the University of Michigan, Wayne



The Quartet will be performing "museum pieces" according to Marian Tanau in our Museum--- a 350 year old J. S. Bach concerto, a 200+ year old Mozart piece, pieces by Borodin, Debussy, and folk music themes translated into classic pieces by Bartok plus other lively folk music.

A special guest performer, nine year old student of Marian Tanau, Olivia Popp, will perform a duet with him. Many of our ticket holders are especially looking forward to this segment!



Only 55 tickets at \$20.00 each were printed due to the intimate size of our Grande Parlour. The concert will begin at 7 p.m., and a wine and cheese afterglow will follow, during which the performers will be happy to join us and mingle. We hope you bought your ticket already! See you at the concert!



A Gift from the Northville Waterford Bend Questers #1013

We are thrilled to have been given a slide holder for a stereopticon viewer to add to our collection of antiques -- along with a few slides for viewing. The viewer itself is the “ancestor” of the “View Master” -- perhaps more familiar to those of us seniors who were amazed by the evolution of 3-D pictures. I remember learning about the U.S. National Parks when a classmate was lucky enough to receive a “View Master” for Christmas and shared it with us in school.



Thank You, Northville Waterford Bend Questers #1013, for this most beautiful gift to the Friends of the Straight Farm House! It will be displayed with pride!

News from Another Volunteer, Betty Mann

We are pleased to inform you that reservations for the Grande Parlour have been increasing. It appears that word of mouth and our web site are accountable for this increase.

Our “staff” has endeavored to make each occasion a pleasant one. However, we need your help. Your volunteering is vital for our success. Please consider devoting one hour of your time monthly or bimonthly to assist in the preparation of the Grande Parlour. Maybe you would like to help with a bit of dusting or vacuuming. Maybe you would like to help open or close for a rental party. You will find volunteering at the Straight Farm House a pleasant experience.

(Editor's note: New volunteer, Beverly England, has taken over managing the Grande Parlour. This includes keeping a current calendar of reservations, calling volunteers to open and close for events, and arranging

for the necessary cleaning to be done. This job can be very difficult on occasion when volunteers are in short supply! We need your help!)



A Request from Volunteer Carol Hill

We are in need of the following high school class pictures to complete our roster at the Garden City Museum. Garden City East High School pictures we need are: 1972, 1974, 1976-77, 1980-81, 1985-86, 1988-1994, and 2006. Garden City West High School class pictures we need are: 1967, 1979-1982.

We need the original photographs, but will be happy to make a copy and then return the original(s) to you.

Our inventory of yearbooks from Garden City East High School is also incomplete. We would like to have yearbooks from 1971, 1980, 1985, 1988 and 1990. If you happen to know of someone who is willing to donate one of these, we promise to take very good care of it and share it with our visitors!

I am in the process of redoing scrapbooks filled with great events and history from years past in Garden City. Unfortunately, some of them are in very bad shape -- even crumbling. If you have old scrapbooks that you would be willing to donate, we would be happy to take them. We only ask that they be in better shape than ours!

(Editor's note: Carol Hill is one faithful volunteer who has found her "niche" every Wednesday afternoon at the Straight Farm House. Her efforts to save our history in scrapbooks are unending and the scrapbooks are a joy to explore now -- without fear of pages disintegrating as we turn them! She has even been seen taking scrapbooks home in tote bags to work on in the evening. We, and future visitors to our Museum, will be able to appreciate her dedicated work for years to come. Thank you, Carol Hill!!)

An Invitation

An old Irish rhyme reinforces our invitation to you to visit the Straight Farm House and Museum, to admire our collection and progress, and to share our pride in all that our Friends have accomplished:

Come in the evening, come in the morning,
Come when expected, come without warning;
Thousands of welcomes you'll find here
before you,
And the oftener you come,
The more we'll adore you.

Is History Really Boring?

In the 1500's, houses had thatched roofs -- thick straw--piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house...this posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.



(Editor's Note: It's possible that Muriel Grima found this historical information when doing research on replacing the roof over our Sun Porch!)

...And Speaking of Our Sun Porch...

Our latest Garden City businessman to purchase a room of the Straight Farm House and become a most welcome supporter along with his wife, Natalie, is Bill Newman, owner of the Sav-On Drug Store. Mr. & Mrs. Newman chose to purchase the "Resale Room" (the Sun Porch!) adjacent to our Lathers General Store. Our merchandise changes seasonally and with holidays in mind -- as does that of the Sav-On Drug Store. We thank Bill and Natalie wholeheartedly for their support!

Support Comes in Many Forms...

Brothers Jay, Abe, and Eddie Sabbagh of the Ford & Inkster Auto Center (the Sunoco station) graciously contributed gas gift charges to the Friends for our most loyal volunteer, Jim Doddie, who maintains our grounds throughout the year. The Sabbagh brothers expressed their desire to help in our community whenever and however possible. We truly appreciate their attitude and financial help!

(Editor's Note: The excessive snowfall we've had this winter took a big bite out of our budget -- hence our gratitude for all the contributions we've received, including memberships and Support Plan sponsors!! Thank You All!!)

Have you ever given any thought to remembering the Friends and the Straight Farm House and Museum in your will?