

STRAIGHT FARMHOUSE CRIER

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EDITORS: CAROL BIRD, SUE BIRD

General Membership Meeting

Please plan to attend our first general membership meeting on Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 7 p.m.

We'll meet in the Grande Parlour to present and discuss questions and concerns you may have about operating the Straight Farmhouse and our survival, and ways in which you can be of great help in this project. Please do your best to join us that evening. Visitors to the Straight Farm House express the opinion that our "operation" is the best thing Garden City has to offer these days! The prevailing feeling among those who visit is that we are restoring pride in our community -- a most valuable asset!



Our First Wedding!

Retired letter carrier, Robert Short, and Ruth Benton were married in our Grande Parlour by Mayor Jay Lee Lynch December 6th. Robert was a postal employee for 33 years, "and a fine one", said former Postmaster John Shiven. Robert has contributed several items of memorabilia in his personal collection to the Friends, and they will be displayed in the SFH Postal display room soon. We wish Mr. & Mrs. Robert Short the very best!

The Nollett House

The Nollett House, built in 1845 and located on Middlebelt Road near Cherry Hill, was slated for demolition this fall to make way for a strip mall.

The house had been owned by the Nollett family since it was built and was still in pristine condition. It had been offered to the City for \$1



in hopes that the administration would want it moved to the City Park or other property it owned, but the offer was refused. A phone call from Muriel Grima to Mrs. Ethel Nollett resulted in Mrs. Nollett gifting the Straight Farmhouse with her entire kitchen - cabinets and appliances. In addition, we were gifted with a beautiful carpet (now in our dining room) and doors from various rooms.

Once these gifts were brought to the SFH, Mike Bingham and Jerry Marquette began serious renovation of the kitchen in our rental area immediately. Mike has worked constantly since that time, upgrading electrical, removing old fixtures, painting, and installing all of Mrs. Nollett's gifts. All appliances are now in place:



stove, microwave, dishwasher, the double sink (deep!), garbage disposal, and the gorgeous cupboards!

All that remains to be done is removing the carpeting in the kitchen and serving room and installing new flooring. It is so very beautiful! How do we adequately thank Mrs. Nollett?!



Grand Opening of the Museum!

The Museum's Grand Opening October 20th and 21st was very well attended and enjoyed by all. Visitors were amazed at the brilliant display of our collection - the creation of Kim Marquette. Artifacts are not displayed just upstairs in the Museum, but can be found on all levels and places throughout the Straight Farmhouse.

We have had people come in and visit on their way to the airport, for example, and say they "were sure glad they stopped". We have had messages on our website from folks who have visited, telling us how impressed they were with the Post Office, for



one, and the way things are displayed. This is a great outing for grandparents and their grandchildren, especially, so they can describe and explain what the children are seeing and how some articles were used, etc. Many people are happy to see things on display that jog their memories -- and give us information we may not have known. These visits have also spurred some folks to donate items they "just can't throw away and that my children don't want". We can help you with this problem! We may not be able to display everything **all** the time, but Kim's goal is to have changing displays continually.

With all our visitors, we need more volunteer docents, or guides, for the Museum. It really is fun to meet people and witness their enjoyment of our displays.



A Recent Visit!!

A short time ago, Elizabeth Brand Aldrich and her daughter visited our House when they were in the area. Mrs. Aldrich is the last living member of the Brand family who lived in the Straight Farmhouse between 1936 and 1964. She was very pleased to meet Kim and Jerry Marquette and described the floorplan as she remembered it, which will guide us as we begin renovations on the parlor area in the future.

Our "Dining Room" was her parents' bedroom which had a walk-in closet and four doors: two to the outside, one to the hallway, and one to the closet. Her bedroom was our "Post Office" display room. She told about listening to Bob Hope on the radio through the wall of the kitchen, our "Lathers General Store". In later years, her bedroom was in the small room upstairs at the top of the stairs and she was excited that the closet was still there. She and her daughter were so happy to be invited in on a Sunday (a rental party had just ended) and taken on a tour of the House that they bought a brick for our Walkway!

Mrs. Aldrich and her daughter have since sent family historical information and photos via our website which will soon be available to you in our Research Room. Although they found some outside photos, they found none of the inside of the house. Her daughter expressed her happiness in her mother's childhood home now being the home of our Museum, and said she plans to bring **her** daughter for a visit sometime!





Lathers General Store

We have some unique items available for your Christmas shopping desires: inlaid wood boxes made of exotic woods by Glenn James, pottery by our in-house potter, Judy Buresh, a new line of food stuffs, collectibles, Garden City history books and many new resale items. You might even want to consider giving someone a year's membership in the Friends or buying a brick for our walkway in honor and/or memory of a friend or family member. We're waiting for you to visit our store -- open every Wednesday and Saturday from noon to 3 p.m.! You might even consider volunteering to help operate the Store on occasion! The folks who have volunteered seem to have a good time with us. And do we appreciate them!! Thank you, Roxanne Mueller, Glenda Thompson, Mandy Reed, Betty Kerstetter and Betty Mann!



The Quilt Winner

The drawing for the quilt was held on

November 18, 2006. The winning ticket was drawn by Mike Bingham, who was working on the kitchen renovation at the time and was truly an impartial ticket-plucker. The lucky winner was Alva Holk of Northville, MI!



Vaudeville Vance's Petticoat (Plus One) Revue

We had another "hit" program in the Grande Parlour this fall: The Petticoat Ladies (Plus One) of the Garden City Presbyterian Church. They presented a vaudeville program which was attended by a full house of appreciators. The (Plus One) turned out to be their associate pastor, who played the piano and played the part of Ted Lewis. They included the history of vaudeville along with several performers who sang and/or did their comedy act to our delight. Members of the audience were treated to old-time refreshments: root beer (and other flavors of soda), crackerjack, chips, nuts, etc. (None of which was thrown at our outstanding performers!) We welcome the Petticoat Ladies back any time they wish!

Our Rummage Sale

Another success!! Thanks to Muriel Grima and her helpers on November 11, 2006: Chuck Guisgand, Karen Grima, Betty Mann and her lovely Scottish friend, over \$400 was raised to help with our budget needs. We appreciate all our donors, too, without whom we would not have had a sale! All items that were left have been donated to the Salvation Army in Romulus.



Our Volunteers

We like to mention the names of our volunteers since these people are so valuable to us. Their time and effort expended on our behalf is very much appreciated. If we have failed to mention you, please let me hear about it! We won't miss including you the next time!

We need you!

