

The ROCKY RIDGE REVIEW

Fall 1998

Laura Ingalls Wilder - Rose Wilder Lane Home Association, Mansfield, Missouri 65704

YOU'RE INVITED TO ROCKY RIDGE DAY, 1998!

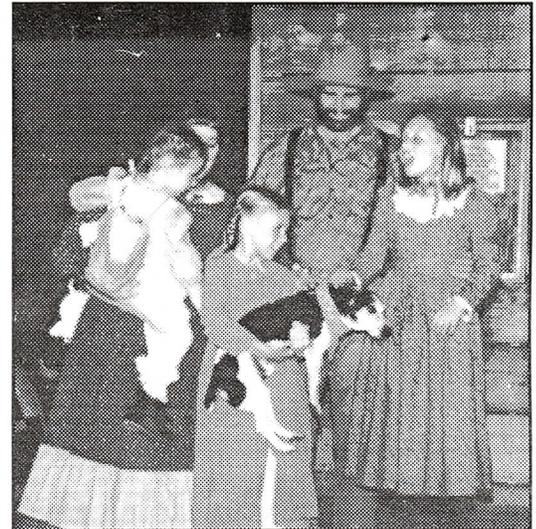
This year's Rocky Ridge Day, the eighth annual historical and literary festival, will be held on the Museum grounds on Saturday, October 17. The day will include a variety of activities, in addition to tours of the historic house, museum and the seventy-year old restored Rock House.



Dave Para and Cathy Barton

Visitors may view the second floor guest room in the Rocky Ridge Farmhouse during the hour after opening and during the hour before closing on Saturday. This is the room where guests including Carrie Ingalls, author Helen Boylston and other literary figures stayed while on Rocky Ridge.

Music will be provided by the team of Cathy Barton and Dave Para of Boonville, Missouri. They have performed



A scene from "Little House Memories".

for us on several previous Rocky Ridge Days.

An Author's Forum will be a feature of this year's celebration. Held in the "In-the-Event-of-Rain" Tent, Maria Wilkes, William Anderson and artist Dan Andreason will speak about their work and answer questions.

Maria D. Wilkes is author of "Little House in Brookfield", "Little Town at the Crossroads" and "Little Clearing in the Woods", based on the early lives of the Quiner family in Wisconsin. She will describe her research and the making of these "prequel" books from 10-10:30. She is making her first visit.

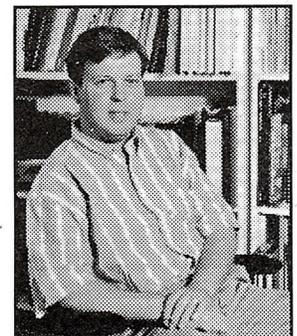
William Anderson, author of numerous biographical books on the Ingallses and Wilders, will be available for questions and conversation from 10:30 to 11.

Another first-timer is illustrator Dan Andreason. His work is familiar to "Little House" readers through art in the Rocky Ridge series, the Brookfield series, jackets for *Little House Sampler* and *Little House Reader* and the new picture book, *Pioneer Girl*. Andreason, who



Author Maria D. Wilkes

spent ten years painting for American Greetings, is also the illustrator of the beautiful new book by Mary Chapin Carpenter, *When Halley Came to Jackson*. Dan will treat us all to a demonstration of painting during his session at 11. Several of his originals will also be on exhibit for Rocky Ridge Day.

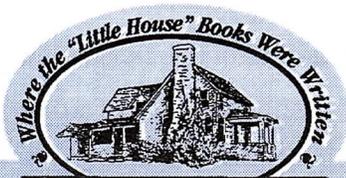


Illustrator Dan Andreason

The authors and illustrator will be available at various times to sign books. They will be joined by Abby MacBride Allen, who will answer questions about the Rocky Ridge books.

Afternoon entertainment will include the traditional playing of Pa's Fiddle. This will be followed by a first -- a performance from the wonderful "Little House Memories" pageant of the Ozark Mountain Players.

*Please join us for another memorable autumn day
on the Wilder homeplace.*



THE WILDER HOME
NEWS FROM THE
HOME & MUSEUM

WILDER
NEWS

since the last update! Yes, five more acres of the original Rocky Ridge Farm were purchased in August. This land adjoins the Rock House property and is in a strategic spot as visitors approach.

At the home and museum complex, visitors now begin their tour by viewing an orientation video in the converted room where the old car port was located. A new deck near the Book Store entrance has been enjoyed by visitors all season, along with the wild flower garden.

The Peter Ingalls family Bible has been restored to its original appearance and is on display in the Ingalls family case in the museum.

The Association extends sympathy to the family of founder member Gireda Shorter, who died recently. Mrs. Shorter and her late husband knew the Wilders well, having purchased the Rock House property from them.

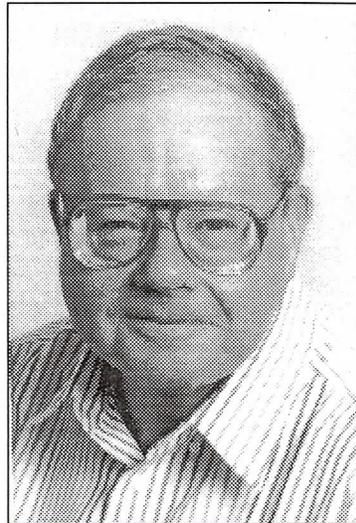
Book store manager Jo Ann Gray and her granddaughter Carrie Keith made a grand tour of all the Little House sites excepting Malone this summer. They learned a lot, enjoyed themselves and even encountered former visitors to Mansfield on the tour! While in De Smet and Walnut Grove, they saw the pageants performed by those communities. From there, they continued on to Keystone, South Dakota, the home of Carrie Ingalls Swanzy. Carrie later wrote an account of their trip for the *Mansfield Mirror*.

THE ROCKY RIDGE REVIEW
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© 1998 by the LIW-RWL Home Association
Check pattern on front page streamer is duplicated from flyleaves of original Harper & Brothers editions of the Wilder books and favored by Laura

BEQUEST RECEIVED BY WILDER HOME ASSOCIATION FROM MACBRIDE ESTATE

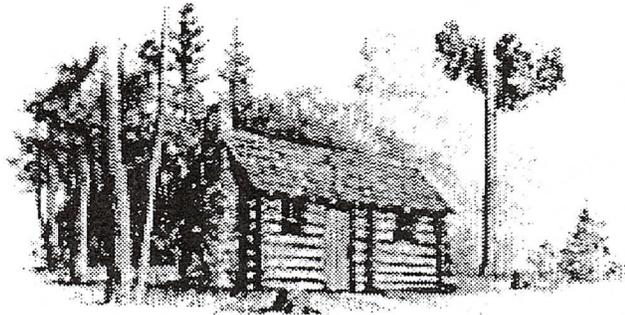


ROGER LEA MACBRIDE

A \$75,000 bequest from the estate of the late Roger Lea MacBride has been received by the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association.

Roger MacBride, the Wilder family heir, was a longtime member of the Board of the Directors, and donated the contents of the Rose Wilder Lane exhibit to the Museum. He was active in many of the projects and concerns of the Board of Directors, and his guidance is still missed.

Mr. MacBride's remembrance is greatly appreciated, and it will enhance future projects and developments at the Rocky Ridge Farm site.



Art work from "Pioneer Girl" by Dan Andreassen.

"BEYOND THE PRAIRIE", CBS MADE-FOR-TV MOVIE TO BE SHOWN

Wilder readers may be in for a jolt when they view the prime time Television movie on CBS this season. It is called "Beyond the Prairie: The True Story of Laura Ingalls Wilder". The following is a release which describes some of the content, including a fictional visit by Laura to South Dakota in 1944. A press release reads: "Richard Thomas (as Pa Ingalls) and Lindsay Crouse (Laura) star in a romantic love story that covers the pivotal time in the life of the beloved author as she leaves the security of her family to begin a new life as a wife and mother.

Memories of her blossoming adulthood in the Dakota Territory overcame the elderly Laura Ingalls Wilder in 1944 as she travels back to the region from which she had moved more than 50 years earlier, to speak to the South Dakota Historical Society about the making of a writer. In her mind, it's again 1881 as she recounts life at the Ingalls' shanty, her pioneering spirit and the arrival of the handsome and mysterious Almanzo Wilder."

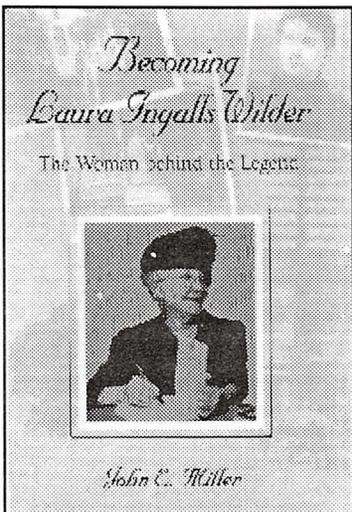


JOHN MILLER PUBLISHES LATEST WILDER BIOGRAPHY

South Dakota State University professor John Miller researched heavily for this sympathetic biography of the "Little House" author. The book, a part of the Missouri Biography Series, delves into Laura's life with an emphasis on the places where she lived, explaining how her environs affected her career as a writer. Fascinating research brings alive the customs and quality of life while Laura was a Mansfield resident particularly.

Miller, who finds Laura's "Missouri Ruralist" writings of great value, illustrates in his book how her authorial skills were honed by many years of journalism. He finds Laura's life a long process leading up to her career as an author.

In this book, Laura's role as author of the "Little House" books is emphasized. In many cases, the author notes, her first drafts of stories are as appealing as the later published versions. This is a simply written, fact-filled biography, which all Wilder readers will want to consult for its solid research, readability and illumination of the author's life and times.

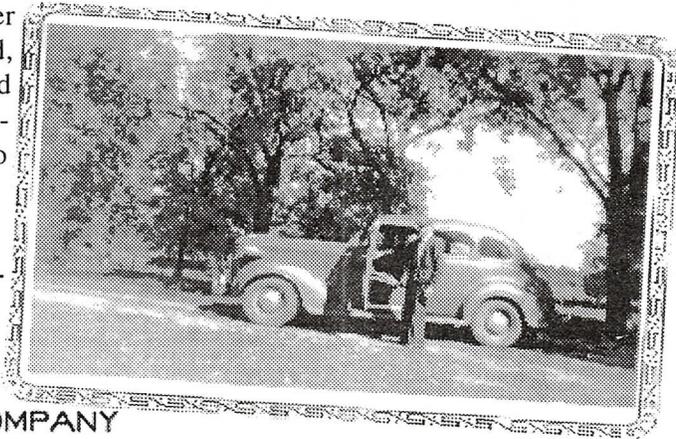


BECOMING LAURA INGALLS WILDER: THE WOMAN BEHIND THE LEGEND, by John E. Miller, University of Missouri Press, 1998. 306 pp. \$29.95.



ALMANZO BUYS A NEW CAR

Although Almanzo Wilder was a lifelong horseman, he began driving cars in 1925 and continued to his death twenty four years later. Some Mansfield residents still recall Mr. Wilder driving very slowly through the streets of town. Here is the bill of sale for the 1936 Chrysler which Almanzo purchased, the same car that took he and Laura to Detroit the following year and on two trips to the western states.



Tarbutton Garage
Mansfield, Mo

BOUGHT OF

MARTIN MOTOR COMPANY

CHRYSLER DISTRIBUTORS
438 St. Louis Street

SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI Nov. 13, 1936

Chrysler Royal Tour-Sedan
Serial #6871364
Motor #C16-7989
Lock #2059-2628

DelMonte Beige	List	\$825.00
	24%	198.00
		<u>627.00</u>
Painted sheet metal		6.75
Bumper group		28.13
Accessory group B		11.25
H D air cleaner		2.00
Overdrive		27.30
Frt, servicing, handling & delivery, advertising		105.00
Delivery record,		5.00
		<u>610.43</u>
<i>In Transit Logo</i>		.25
		<u>\$710.68</u>

Wilder

"CHRISTMAS AT ROCKY RIDGE FARM"



Art by Garth Williams from "Little House in the Big Woods"

You are invited to the first-ever holiday Open House at the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum!

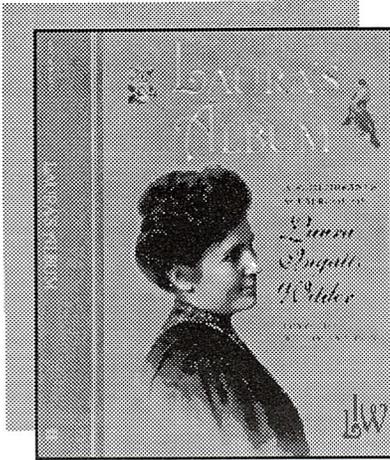
From December 1-15, 4 to 8 p.m., the historic home will be open, dressed in holiday array. Since Christmas was always a part of the "Little House" books, it seems appropriate that the house where they were written is a part of Christmas observances in the Ozarks region.

The Little House Bookstore will also be open for holiday shopping. This year, in our continuing series of Christmas ornaments for your tree, *The Long Winter* is being featured.

As Laura wrote of the holiday season; "Such magic there is in Christmas to draw the absent ones home and if unable to go in the body the thoughts will hover there! Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred and we are better throughout the year for having the spirit become a child again at Christmas time."



NEW IN THE BOOKSTORE



"LAURA'S ALBUM"

*A Remembrance Scrapbook of
Laura Ingalls Wilder*

by **William
Anderson**

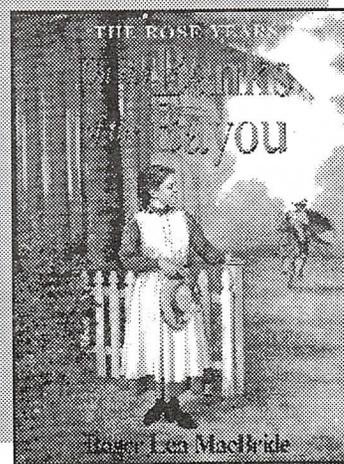
LAURA'S ALBUM, compiled, with text by William Anderson, is a beautiful collection of art, photographs, clippings, documents, letters and keepsakes of a century of Quiner-Ingalls-Wilder lives. Some of the material in this beautifully designed edition has never been by the public. This is a wonderful "hands-on" companion to the Little House books themselves. 80 pp., 8x10, \$19.95. October 16 release date.

"ON THE BANKS OF THE BAYOU"

by **Roger
Lea MacBride**

Pictures by Dan Andreasen

The first six books in the series describe the Wilders' journey to Missouri, their first three years on Rocky Ridge Farm, and their move to the town of Mansfield. In this latest Rose Years title, a whole new world opens up for Rose when she leaves Rocky Ridge Farm to live with her aunt Eliza Jane. Rose is sixteen now, and she thrives in a city brimming with excitement and adventure. Rose even finds herself becoming an independent young woman with her own ideas, ambitions, and dreams. Hardcover \$15.95 - Paperback \$4.95.



*Write for our
latest price list!*

"SO HE FOUND THE SPRING ..."

One of Laura's early writings was an article entitled "Se We Moved the Spring", in which she described the way Almanzo piped the hilltop spring source of water into the house and barnyard of Rocky Ridge. In later years, this water source became unreliable; droughts and the stress of farming on the water table sometimes reduced the supply. Finally a well was drilled and a more modern pressure pump was used in the Wilder house.

Association employee Gaylerd Miller has discovered the locale of the spring site, and his photographs show this long forgotten site on Rocky Ridge. He writes: *"The spring is hard to photograph, with lots of brush and small trees nearby. Leaves and trash cover the bottom; it is wet, but no water standing. It looks to be about ten feet wide and ten feet deep. There is a two-inch pipe about two feet below ground level heading down the hollow towards the Wilder house. You can see the lid on top. If it were not cleaned out some water would stand in the well but not enough to reach the pipe to flow down the hill, I think."*

To read Laura's article about the spring, refer to *A Little House Sampler*, page 108.



This looks southeast on top of the hill, looking away from the historic house. The lid on the structure is not in place, but laying on top.

**Laura Ingalls Wilder -
Rose Wilder Lane Home & Museum**
3068 Hwy. A
Mansfield, MO 65704

