

The ROCKY RIDGE REVIEW

Fall 2002

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



2002 ROCKY RIDGE DAY TO FEATURE KEVIN HAGEN

Join us for Rocky Ridge Day 2002

You are invited to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association's 12th annual Rocky Ridge Day, to be held on the museum grounds on October 12.

This year's festivities will feature as our honored guest Kevin Hagen, who portrayed the lovable, wise country doctor "Doc Baker" from TV's "Little House on the Prairie" from 1974-1984. Prior to that he appeared in dozens of TV, motion picture and theatrical roles, including "Gunsmoke," "Knots Landing," and "Matlock". Following the long run on "Little House," Mr. Hagen developed his one-man show "A Playful Dose of Prairie Wisdom." We are proud to host his humorous and informative presentation of nineteenth century wit and wisdom. For more on our guest, visit his website at docbaker.com

In addition to autographing, tours of the historic homes and museum, Pa's fiddle will be played.



Laura Bush
requests the pleasure of your company
at a breakfast reception and
White House Symposium on
"Women of the West"

Willa Cather, Edna Ferber and Laura Ingalls Wilder
on Tuesday, September 17, 2002
at eight o'clock

East Entrance

The White House
Salute to America's Authors Series

LITTLE HOUSE GOES TO THE WHITE HOUSE

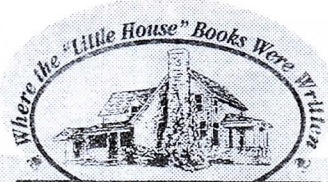
Laura Bush is well known as a friend to children's books and education and among her personal stamps on The White House is an ongoing literary series of symposiums telecast on C-Span. Last winter, Missouri author Mark Twain was a subject of discussion by literary scholars and historians. Mrs. Bush is following this with a symposium on September 17 focusing on three women who left their mark on western literature, Willa Cather, Edna Ferber and Laura Ingalls Wilder.

The three-hour seminar will begin with breakfast in the State Dining Room. Among the invitees are actress Melissa Gilbert, member-directors of Laura Ingalls Wilder sites, photographer Leslie A. Kelly and other critics and scholars. Descendants of the Ingalls family are also expected.

Jean Coday, president of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association and William Anderson, vice president, will represent the Mansfield site.

Mrs. Bush has been quoted as expressing her admiration and affection for the Little House books, and being happy that she shares the name of one of her favorite authors.





THE WILDER HOME NEWS FROM THE HOME & MUSEUM

WILDER NEWS

It has been an enjoyable season on Rocky Ridge, home of the Wilders. By August, 36,576 had visited the historic homes.

Maintenance is a regular necessity and it is expertly handled for the Association by Arnold Day and Jim Jackson. Many projects have been completed. Some remodeling in the bookstore and the addition of storage has improved conditions in that busy area. Continued work on the Rock House has included re-glazing the windows, a painstaking job. Research has revealed that the color of the trim on the Rock House was of a different hue during the Wilder times, so it has been redone. Fabrication of galvanized guttering material and downspouts has been completed. (This was a custom job, done in order to replicate what was installed on the house in 1928.)

Another big improvement to the Rock House is the refinishing and refurbishing of the upstairs attic area of the Rock House. This was an unfinished space during the Wilder times, so it was historically insignificant. The finished job provides a good space for needed storage and for other potentials in the future. Acreage owned by the Association has been cleared of dead trees, "brush-hogged" and

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Check pattern on front page streamer is duplicated from flyleafs of original Harper & Brothers editions of the Wilder books and favored by Laura

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LAURA INGALLS WILDER FEATURED AT SILVER DOLLAR CITY

Just over an hour away from the historic homes of the Wilder family is the town of Branson, which has become an entertainment mecca for millions. One of Branson's oldest and most popular attractions is Silver Dollar City, an atmospheric old-time village that features craftsmen, historical attractions, musicians and storytellers. The Wilder Home & Museum have been working closely with the 1880's theme park for the past year to

bring a very special event to the Frisco Barn this fall.



Beginning September 7 and running through October 26, the Barn, which has been renamed "The Laura Ingalls Wilder Theatre," will feature a glimpse into the life of the Wilders at Rocky Ridge Farm.

The farmhouse has been recreated to showcase the kitchen and the parlor, complete with a replica of Laura's stone fireplace. Surrounding the "farmhouse" are photographs of Laura, her family and her two Ozarks homes. The exhibit also includes a few select artifacts on loan from the Wilder Home and Museum. Visitors to the exhibit will be able to see a crocheted runner made by Laura, an early edition of "Little House on the Prairie," and other items from her home in Mansfield. The Laura Ingalls Wilder exhibit is part of this year's Festival of American Music and Craftsmanship, and will also feature musicians and storytellers as part of the event. We hope many of our visitors and Rocky Ridge Day guests will be able to celebrate Laura Ingalls Wilder twice during their visit to the Ozarks, once at Mansfield and again at Silver Dollar City.

MEMBERSHIPS REVISED FOR LAURA INGALLS WILDER HOME ASSOCIATION

When the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association was chartered in 1957, memberships were sold at \$100 to provide seed money for the fledgling organization. Many Mansfield citizens and admirers of the Wilders contributed as Founder Members. Now, most of the original members are no longer living.

With an expanding site and financial needs ever increasing, the Association has revised its membership structure.

The following are in effect as of June, 2002;

Annual Memberships:

- ___ **Student:** \$25.00
- ___ **Individual:** \$50.00
- ___ **Supporter:** \$100.00

These levels of membership entitle bearer to a membership card, two issues of the Association newsletter, free admission on regular Home & Museum tours and 10% discount on purchases over \$10.00 in the Little House Bookstore.

Lifetime Memberships:

- ___ **Sponsor:** \$500.00

Membership entitles bearer to all benefits of annual membership, plus voting privileges in person or by proxy, at yearly association meetings.

- ___ **Patron:** \$1,000.00

Membership entitles bearer to all the above benefits, plus a brick with member's name to be placed outside the new museum.

- ___ **Benefactor:** \$5,000.00

Membership entitles bearer to all the above benefits plus, member's name to be placed on a permanent plaque inside the new museum.

All previous memberships remain in good standing.

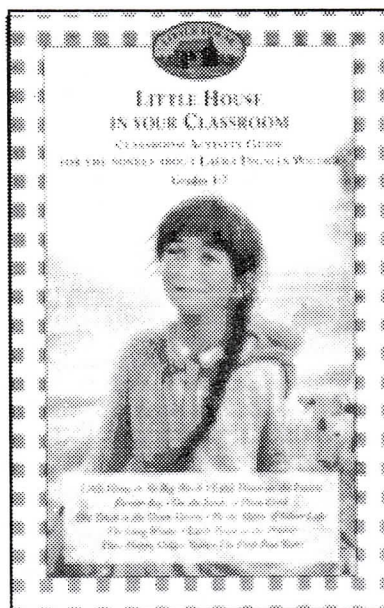


STUDY GUIDE FOR LITTLE HOUSE BOOKS AVAILABLE

Harper Collins has released a 31-page booklet entitled LITTLE HOUSE IN YOUR CLASSROOM.

This consists of a book-by-book classroom activity guide for the books of Laura Ingalls Wilder. It is geared to grades 3-7.

Journal writing, questions, map work and reflections on "then and now" are included. If you are interested in a copy please send a self-addressed, stamped (\$.83) envelope to the Home and Museum along with your request.



WILDER NEWS, cont.

prepped for possible walking trails through the woods in the future. With so many trees on the various properties, their maintenance is an ongoing job. Alas, many of the oldest trees have lived out their life span and are becoming the victim of age and weather.

A parcel of land adjoining the Rock House property has been purchased. This 25-acre plot was not Wilder land, but it was felt that it may become useful for proposed trails and for the preservation of the vista from the Rock House itself.

The usual Christmas open house at the Wilder Home is scheduled this year for December 1 - 16. As in past seasons we will have the Farmhouse decorated for Christmas and open for free tours each evening from 4 - 8 pm, with refreshments being served in the Director's Office. Also, the Home and Museum will remain open until November 15. With long autumns and good weather, more and more visitors express and interest in seeing the properties. If you are a teacher or group leader, a late fall tour is an excellent option. Reservations can be made by calling the Home and Museum offices. Opening date is March 1, 2003.

Among the group tours this season were those offered by Barbara Hawkins' "Little House Site Tours". She and her groups made journeys to each of the Little House sites in June and July. For information on the 2003 tours, consult the website at www.lhsitetours.homestead.com <<http://www.lhsitetours.homestead.com>>.

Try our on-line shopping offerings of items in the Little House Bookstore! The Association's website is www.lauraingalls-wilderhome.com.

The Board of Directors has engaged historical architect Philip Cotton to provide us with a master plan for the Wilder properties and a preliminary design for a new museum building and reception center. This is a first step to removing any buildings of a post-1957 era from the historic home-site and providing better display of artifacts.

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NEW ITEMS AVAILABLE IN OUR BOOKSTORE

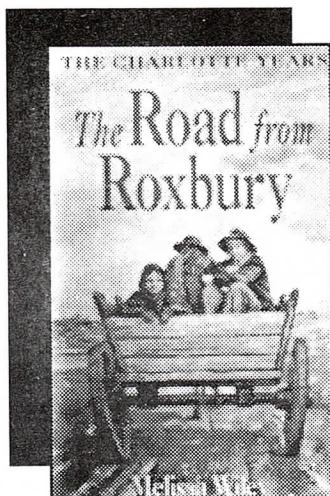


A GARTH WILLIAMS TREASURY OF BEST-LOVED GOLDEN BOOKS

Collected here, for the first time ever, are ten best-loved Golden Books illustrated by Garth Williams. In these stories, a superb gift for characterization and a special affinity for depicting animals shine forth. You'll meet, among many others, a farm full of baby animals, an adventurous dog who sails the seas, a kitten who thinks he is a mouse, and Crispian, "the dog who belonged to himself."

Featuring extraordinary artwork and stories by such noted authors as Margaret Wise Brown, Miriam Norton, and Jane Werner, there is hardly a collection anywhere that is as perfect a gift for young children.

Price: \$19.99



THE ROAD FROM ROXBURY

The War of 1812 is over, and Charlotte thinks life in Roxbury is finally back to normal. She's excited because Will and Lucy have moved in with her family, and Charlotte adores looking after Lucy's baby. Before long, however, Charlotte feels like her world has been turned upside down. Baby Williams seems to have taken over her house, and Mama and Lucy are always busy taking care of him. To make matters worse, Charlotte has a new teacher at school - will her life ever be the same again?

The Road to Roxbury is the third book in the Charlotte Years, an ongoing series about another spirited girl from America's most beloved pioneer family.

\$6.99 Paperback • \$16.99 Hard Cover

WILDER NEWS, cont.

News of this ambitious project and the necessary fund-raising will follow in a future issue.

Original art of Garth Williams is now on tour in Japan. This is the first public display of Garth's work and it will tour several Japanese cities. Heavily featured are originals from the Little House books, with editorial markings on the oversized pages. The Association is pleased to now have a display of preliminary sketches of Garth's work for THE FIRST FOUR YEARS in the museum building.



LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE STAMP BOOKMARK

Charming bookmark featuring the *Little House on the Prairie* collector's stamp. Gold plated book charm attached.

\$5.50 each



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

Visit us on-line @ www.lauraingallswilderhome.com

