

# The ROCKY RIDGE REVIEW

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

Winter 2014-15

## Artifacts Add to the Wilder Home Collection

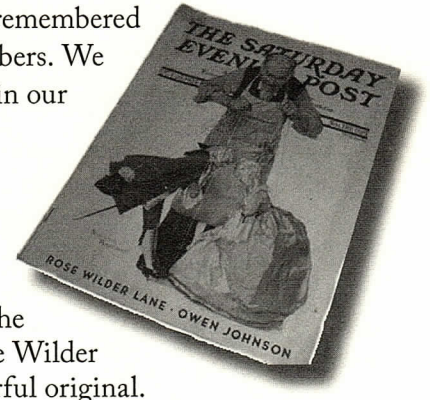
After 57 years of existence, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum is still being remembered by the public as a proper place to donate items about and by Ingalls-Wilder family members. We are most appreciative, and look forward to displaying/safely storing these historic gems in our planned new museum-visitors center.

Among the gifts are:

- Two letters written by Laura Ingalls Wilder to readers were contributed this year.
- A copy of 1932 SATURDAY EVENING POST which started the serial "Let the Hurricane Roar" by Rose Wilder Lane. This is of special interest because a half-page is dedicated to the great W.H.D. Koerner illustration of Charles and Caroline in the covered wagon. The original canvas was a gift to Rose, and has hung in the parlor of the Wilder home for 82 years. Its grayish reproduction in the magazine is a big contrast to the colorful original. Since the cover of the magazine uses a sought-after Norman Rockwell, we had never been able to acquire a copy until now.

- **Richard Fisher** donated some wonderful replicas of Ingalls artifacts to the museum this summer. They include a mint copy of Pa Ingalls' "big green book" called THE WONDERS OF THE ANIMAL WORLD, pennies of the vintage received as Christmas gifts in LITTLE HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE, and a copy of the INDEPENDENT FIFTH READER, the original of which is owned by the Detroit Public Library. They are on display in the museum.

Much gratitude is extended to the donors.



## SINCERE THANKS!

The Wilder Home and Museum acreage always looks lush and groomed, thanks to the work of Jim and Clint Jackson. For several years they have "babied" our antiquated mowing equipment. This spring, we were all thrilled with a *generous* gift — top of the line John Deere equipment! A tractor with a front end loader, a 4-wheel ATV vehicle, and a ATR mower. Our donors were Grisham Farm Products of Mountain Grove, MO, and Larson Farm and Lawn of Springfield, MO. Jerry Williams was very helpful in the gift process as well. More recently Mike and Connie Roberts of Mansfield Building Supply contributed 10 new tables and 50 chairs, which are much needed for the increasing number of special events held here at the Museum.

## JEAN CODAY HONORED



In September, Museum Director Jean C. Coday was honored as a recipient of "The Missourian Award", which is an acknowledgement of the most accomplished citizens of the state of Missouri. This award was presented in Jefferson City, with recipients who demonstrate a strong commitment in business, arts, civics or politics.

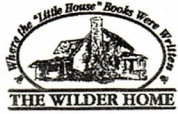
Jean Coday, a native of Ash Grove, Missouri, is well known for her career in business, education, and museum management. As president of The Bank of Mansfield, now Homepride Bank, she carries on her family's tradition in business, which dates back to

1892. Her teaching career included classroom, counseling, and principal of the Wilder Elementary School.

All admirers and friends of the Wilder Home and Museum owe Jean gratitude for 21 years as volunteer director of the site. During this time, she has led the project through its largest expansions in procurement of the original land, the Rock House, and now the project to attain a state of the art museum-visitors center. Her association spans many more years as a board member and president of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home Association.

Her impact has been great. She is surely the heart and soul of the Wilder family home in the Ozarks.





## News from Rocky Ridge

For a week in January 2015, artifacts from the Wilder Museum will be exhibited in the Tokyo Baseball Stadium. This is being sponsored by NHK Educational, and the museum welcomed representatives earlier this year to discuss the exhibit. Journalists also have visited to prepare national media exposure in Japan. The first batch of artifacts left the farm on October 17. All will be returned by our March 1 opening. We are happy to be a part of this project and hope our friends in Japan will enjoy it ... Do you know about "Laura's Angels"? This is a group of Mansfield people who offer their talent and labor for special museum projects and services. They are so very appreciated for all they do! ... What happened to Delaware? That is the only state not represented on the guest book this season. But all the other 49 visited, along with Kenya, Bangladesh and many other countries ... For her longtime volunteer service as director, Jean Coday was honored by the Board of Directors in June. In appreciation of her dedication, she was presented with an original piece of art which illustrates Cheryl Harness's book YOUNG JOHN

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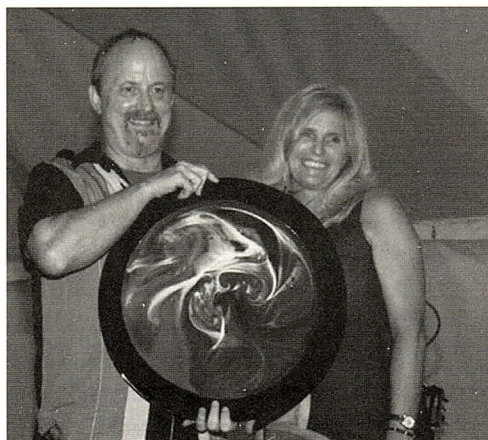
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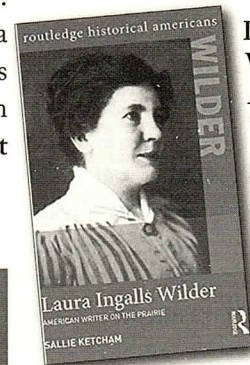
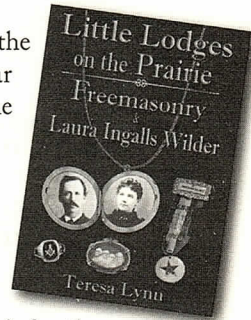
QUINCY ... A new board member attended the annual meeting on October 18. She is Alice Ann Hartley, whose family has long ties with Mansfield and the Wilder family ... Laura Meek from Missouri State University has served this year as intern at the Wilder Home. Her chief project has been creating a modern inventory of all the artifacts in the collection of the Museum. This project is fundamental to the responsible care of any museum collection, says Pamela Young Lee, who is volunteering her services as supervisor of this project. This is one more preliminary job which will help ready us for a state of the art new museum facility ... Our June fundraiser on the museum grounds was a great success. This was also the first time that the Laura Ingalls Wilder Literary Award was presented. It was awarded to Ozarks novelist Daniel Woodrell, whose WINTER BONE became a major motion picture. His other books have developed into an "Ozark Noir" genre. An excellent dinner, musical entertainment, and speeches, amounted to a great evening, and generous donations to the Museum fund ... The Home and Museum has had a successful year, thanks to many visitors and an outstanding staff. If you are in the area, plan to attend "Christmas at Rocky Ridge" on December 5.



*Daniel Woodrell receives the Wilder Award.  
Laura Meek, Co-Chair of the event, at right.*

## New Books

**LITTLE LODGES ON THE PRARIE**, by Teresa Lynn, Tranquility Press, 2014. Though never mentioned in the Little House books, the Masonic Order and the Order of Eastern Star were important in the lives of the Ingalls and Wilder families. Most pioneer towns developed fraternal and philanthropic organizations, and Laura Ingalls Wilder's family were active participants in South Dakota and Missouri. Author Teresa Lynn traces that unique strand of history. She consulted old record books on Masonry in De Smet and Keystone, SD, and continued her search in Mansfield, MO. The result shows that the Ingalls Wilder ties were strong, as Masons and Eastern Star members. From Charles and Caroline Ingalls to Laura and Almanzo Wilder, and Carrie Ingalls and David Swanzey, their connections to the Masons and Stars enriched their lives, and gave them opportunities to serve others in their respective hometowns. Read the full account in this detailed book, available from [www.littlelodgesontheprairie.com](http://www.littlelodgesontheprairie.com)



**LAURA INGALLS WILDER: AMERICAN WRITER ON THE PRAIRIE**, by Sallie Ketcham, published by Routledge, 2014. 169 pp. \$34.95

Here is another spin on the writer Wilder

and her works. As the author mentions in her introductory words, "As a Minnesota children's author researching the life and legacy of Laura Ingalls Wilder, I realized that nearly everyone I encountered had a Laura story." That is so, and Ketcham proceeds to tell Wilder's story in a well-crafted biography. Following that telling are nearly forty pages of appendix ... selections from Laura's columns, speeches, and various writings. This book is available from the Wilder Home and Museum book store.



# PHOTOS FROM WILDER DAYS 2014...



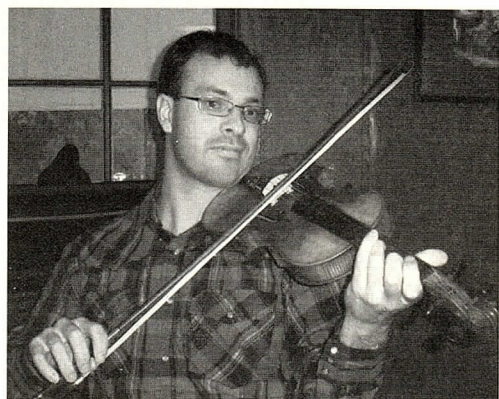
top left: *It's fun to see how kids put their own spin on portraying Almanzo & Laura.*

below left: **Lucy Lee Flippin**, who played Eliza Jane Wilder on TV's *Little House on the Prairie* (and the celebrity guest of Wilder Day events) performed a "reader's theatre" of Wilder stories.



top right: Once again, college professor **David Scrivener** had the auspicious job of playing Pa's fiddle on Wilder Day.

middle right:  
*Vignettes from the Ozark Mountain Players were performed on the lawn.*



above: Children in front of Wilder Home; Betty Dale on Autoharp. below: Administrative Assistant Kim Miller displays the POST issue containing the Koerner painting which hangs in the Wilder parlor.

Dear Members and Friends of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum,  
Best laid plans! We expected to report that groundbreaking for the proposed new museum / visitor center would have happened by now. It has not. Recently, bids have been received which are out of our budget to proceed with the long-worked-for new building. Necessity, along with the kind of thrift the Wilders practiced on Rocky Ridge Farm, compel us to push this dream ahead into the future. At a meeting of the Board of Directors on October 18, it was decided to continue to work with architects and contractors and seek a method to proceed. All agree that we do not wish to sacrifice quality and beauty in making this building a reality. We are still striving for a state of the art museum.

As stewards of this farm, its buildings and artifacts, it is necessary to move carefully with our plan, which will incorporate more opportunities to create memories for our visitors, safety for the museum's holdings, and the building of a structure which will blend seamlessly into the environs without interfering with the vistas and views the Wilders loved.

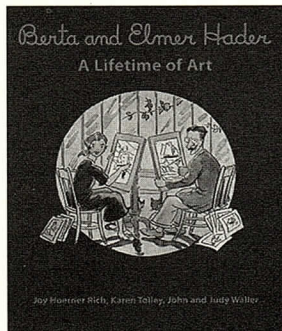
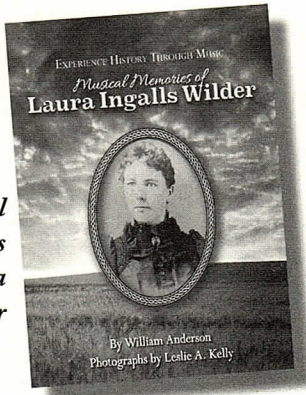
Thank you for your prior support. It has supplied a necessary base on which to build. If you feel you can be a further part of this project, please contact the Museum. We all understand that we are working to preserve the legacy of one of America's classic authors, one whose books remain popular and read 82 years after the first volume was published.

Sincerely,  
The Board of Directors





*Musical  
Memories  
of Laura  
Ingalls Wilder*



**Berta & Elmer  
Hader:**  
*A Lifetime of Art*  
by  
Joy Hoerner Rich,  
Karen Tolley, John  
& Judy Waller

## More New Books 2014

**MUSICAL MEMORIES OF LAURA INGALLS WILDER** (Book & CD set; 18.99) by William Anderson, photos by Les Kelly, and a CD of songs known by the Ingalls family. This is an all-new re-packaging of an earlier edition of this book and musical set. If you have ever wondered how some of the songs of Pa Ingalls' fiddle sounded, search no more. In toe-tapping, poignant renditions, professional musicians re-create such songs as "Buffalo Gals," "Wait for the Wagon" "The Girl I Left Behind Me" and many more tunes. William Anderson provides the historical background in the accompanying book, which is illustrated with historic photos, and Les Kelly's amazing photography.  
**Order from [www.dianawaring.com](http://www.dianawaring.com)**

**BERTA AND ELMER HADER:  
A LIFETIME OF ART**, by Joy Hoerner Rich, Karen Tolley, John and Judy Waller, published by Joyful Productions, 2014. "I have a sneaking suspicion that we helped Mrs. Wilder place her first book," said renowned author-illustrator team Berta and

Elmer Hader. They did. As an established picture book artist husband and wife team, the Haders introduced Laura Ingalls Wilder's first book to a publisher. As friends of Rose Wilder Lane, they were always friendly with the Wilders. The Haders, whose fifty year partnership in children's books produced such classics as the Caldecott award-winning *THE BIG SNOW*, were giants in children's book publishing. In this coffee-table sized full color book, we see evidence of their amazing and versatile body of work, as the loving story of their happy world of creating books unfolds in a fascinating text. At Rocky Ridge Farm, visitors can see one of Elmer Hader's earliest oils, a scene of Telegraph Hill in San Francisco, a gift from him to Rose Wilder Lane. For the rest of the story, this book is a great source.

**Order from:**  
**[www.haderconnection.com](http://www.haderconnection.com)**

[www.lauraingallswilderhome.com](http://www.lauraingallswilderhome.com)

Laura Ingalls Wilder - Rose Wilder Lane  
HOME & MUSEUM  
3068 Highway A  
Mansfield, MO 65704

