

The ROCKY RIDGE REVIEW

Fall 2017

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

CELEBRATING LAURA INGALLS WILDER'S 150TH BIRTHDAY WITH DINNER AND AUCTION

The 150th birthday celebration of Laura Ingalls Wilder brought fans from across the country together on the eve of the annual Wilder Days celebration in Mansfield, MO. This special gathering served as a fundraiser to replace the aged roof of the Historic Farmhouse.

The celebration was held at the Mansfield High School and offered fans and supporters an evening of entertainment and history, combined into one. The evening festivities began with a warm welcome from Wilder Home Director, Jean Coday. In her welcome, Coday reminded guests of the continuing importance of preserving the life and legacy of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Coday has been director of the Wilder Home and Museum since 1993 and has served as a board member since 1960.



Ticket holders were so pleased to hear remarks from author, Pamela Smith Hill who brought forth the history of the Wilder's journey to Wright County and the Mansfield community. She spoke at length on Mrs. Wilder's connection to future generations and how she has touched the lives of so many Americans today. Hill is noted as an award-winning author and lecturer and is endeared to Wilder fans worldwide as the editor of "Pioneer Girl."

In addition to remarks from Wilder historians, the evening was accompanied by Pat Allen. Both families have had strong connections to the Mansfield community, with Terry Spyres and Pat Allen serving as the co-creators of the long running play, "Laura's Memories." The play has been presented annually in the Mansfield outdoor amphitheater by the Ozark Mountain Players. Additionally, guests were treated to music from Pa's fiddle, played by David Scrivner, as they arrived for the historic celebration.

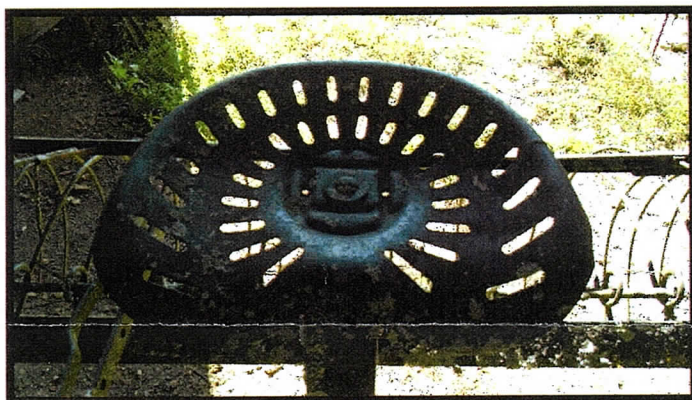
The evening was emceed by Wilder historian, William Anderson who wove many historical details into his introduction of each speaker and guest, including the keynote speech from Dean Butler (Almanzo Wilder, Little House on the Prairie). Butler has made several visits to the Wilder Home and Museum and shared with fans that he was delighted to return for such a special evening of celebrating one of America's national treasures. The next day he signed autographs and memorabilia in the front yard of the historic farmhouse.



The evening raised over \$27,000 through tickets sales, sponsors, donations and auction items. Reg Kelly served as the auctioneer for the live auction and several unique, historic pieces were auctioned off, including jewelry made from broken pieces of Mrs. Wilder's blue willow china.

Our Newest Acquisition – Almanzo's Hay Rake

The Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum is proud to announce its' newest acquisition, Almanzo's hay rake. The rake is large, measuring 10' 3" long, 4' 5" wide, and 6' tall. The purchase was made by the Association on the 6th of October. Jim and Clint Jackson were tasked with picking the rake up and transporting it back to its' original, and now, forever home on Rocky Ridge Farm. Back in its prime, Almanzo would have spent many laborious hours on this horse drawn rake. The rake, currently residing in one of the museum storage buildings, is being cared for until a proper exhibit space is available.



The Laura Ingalls Wilder Association's

Current Board Members

Jean Coday, President
Alice Hartley, Vice President
William Anderson, Secretary
Jane Coday, Treasurer
Pamela Young Lee
Tim Hancock
Vicki Blankenship
Joe Coday
Gayla Hancock
Reverend Nicholas Inman

"Little by little the time flies by -

Short if we laugh.....

Long if we sigh."

LIW

*Are you a member and would like to conserve by receiving this newsletter through email?
Please let us know. liwhome@getgo.in.net*

Wilder Day 2017

Over 1200 visitors came to Rocky Ridge Farm during our Wilder Day festivities, Saturday, September 16th. The day started with a presentation from Hannah Kelly, State Representative of the 141st District. She presented the Association



with a Missouri House of Representatives Resolution. Pa's Fiddle was also played. The day continued with the 4th Annual Laura Ingalls Wilder Fiddle Off. The weather was perfect and the ambience in front of the Farmhouse set the stage for the whole day. Fiddlers and families walked around the grounds or sat



with a picnic in the yard. Visitors lined up to visit and receive autographs from actor, Dean Butler, as well as from authors, William Anderson, Pamela Smith Hill and John Miller. Many came just so they could see the upstairs of the Farmhouse, Wilder Day being the only day that it is open.



The Laura Ingalls Wilder Fiddle Off

The Fiddle Off continues to show growth, now in its fourth year. The Junior Division alone had 15 entries, which is more than the Missouri State Fair and the Oklahoma State Fair. The competitors came from as far as Kentucky and Arkansas with many Texas contestants unable to come this year due to the severe flooding in and near Houston.

2017 Top Honors

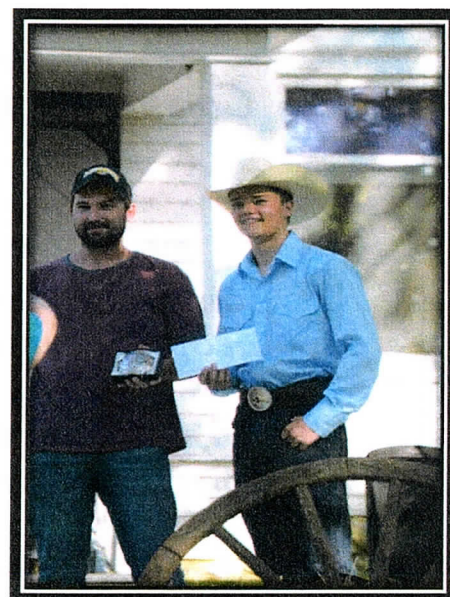
Pewee - Riley Buttress, Summersville, MO

Junior - Baylee Sidden, Holt, MO

Senior - Bob Hammons, Bradleyville, MO

Accompanist - Cody Marriott, Ava, MO

Open - Trustin Baker, Birch Tree, MO

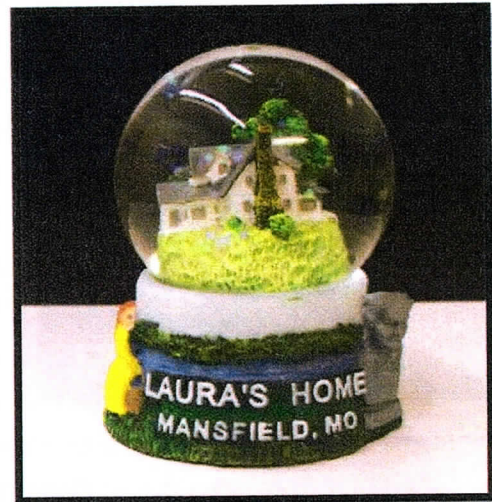


**Congratulations to Cody Marriott of Ava, MO!
Grand Champion Winner of the Round Robin Competition**

BOOKSTORE FEATURES



LIMITED EDITION MAGNET \$6.95



SNOW GLOBE \$4.50

Our Bookstore will be open from 10am – 2pm Monday through Friday until December 15th
Mail Order is available through our website all year long. Order by December 19th to have your
items delivered by Christmas.

www.lauraingallswilderhome.com

Coming Events

December 2nd
"Christmas at Laura's"
A Free Open House from 6-8pm

March 1st, 2018
Opening Day of our 61st season.

A BIG THANK YOU TO THE
LAURA INGALLS WILDER LEGACY AND
RESEARCH ASSOCIATION
FOR INCLUDING US IN
LAURAPALOOZA, JULY 2017.
WE ENJOYED HAVING YOU!

A Letter from a Visitor

Dear Laura Ingalls Wilder Home and Museum,

I wanted to say that my package arrived yesterday and I have been very pleased with the entire process: from ordering on-line and the back-and-forth communication that we engaged in, to the process of alerting me when the package was shipped, to its arrival, and my pleasure from receiving the materials about the Laura Ingalls Wilder family! I would give you a top-notch rating of 5 stars!

I would also like to say that my husband and I and another senior couple attended the 150th birthday celebration of Laura's birth and really enjoyed it! My husband said that seeing both houses and the museum was interesting and he only went along to take me, but I think he would say that it was worth it. The other couple was very impressed with what they saw and learned that day as well and they didn't know of anything besides the T.V. series! ... and to think this historical experience was available right here in Missouri.

Truly,

A Pleased Visitor

Specific Contributions are Appreciated for the Following Items:

Bagless Vacuum with Attachments

Simple Sewing Machine

HEPA Vacuum for Collections Care

Archival Quality Storage Bins

BECOME A MEMBER

The Wilder Home Association is a not-for-profit organization with a 501-C3 classification, and your gift is a charitable contribution. You are welcome to contribute online, or feel free to contact us.

Annual Memberships :

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

Student \$25.00
Individual \$50.00
Supporter \$100.00

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.

You got to treat folks **right** or
you don't last long in business, not in
this country.

The Long Winter

*Laura Ingalls Wilder-Rose Wilder Lane
Home and Museum*



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www.lauraingallswilderhome.com

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