



## On The Trail of Laura Ingalls Wilder

by Delores Miller

When our five children were small, one of the first joint gifts Santa Claus laid under the Christmas tree was the complete set of Little House On The Prairie Books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. All read the books many times, until they became tattered and torn. Now 35 years later the eleven grandchildren are reading the same books. I had read these books in 1945 when the Wisconsin Library sent boxes of books to our small country school.

Among the titles are *Little House in the Big Woods*, set in Pepin, Wisconsin where Laura was born in 1867. *Little House on the Prairie* depicts journeys in a covered wagon, *Farmer Boy*, set in New York where Laura's husband Alonzo spent his childhood. *On the Banks of Plum Creek* set in Walnut Grove, Minnesota. *Long Winter* in DeSmet, South Dakota. Russ read this often, and when we had a blizzard, he wanted to string a rope to the barn like Laura's Father had to do. *By The Shores of Silver Lake*, a railroad surveyor's shack in DeSmet. *The First Four Years* when Laura married Alonzo in 1885, lived on a tree claim before they moved to Mansfield, Missouri.

We all now when travel is more convenient visit the historical sites mentioned in Laura's books. Pepin, Wisconsin, Walnut Grove, Minnesota, Mansfield, Missouri and DeSmet, South Dakota. Historical societies have put on

pageants and plays depicting the books.

Laura Ingalls Wilder began writing her books in 1932 when she was 65 years old. Maybe there is hope for Delores to write commercially yet.



Laura died in 1957 in Mansfield, Missouri at the age of 90, Alonzo had died ten years before. They had one daughter Rose, also a writer and all are buried in Mansfield, we have visited the cemetery.

We have purchased from Abebooks.com the complete set of Laura's books, used they are about \$50 for the seven books. The grandchildren enjoy them immensely.

If you want to learn about Pioneer life from the eyes of a child, reread the Little House On The Prairie books. The television show is fake, nothing like there themes happened in the books.

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*The Whippoorwill Press* is resurrected to publish Delores Miller's article. We welcome her return to the AAPA. This is the personal journal of J. Hill Hamon, 1515 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, KY 40601, [kyhamon@aol.com](mailto:kyhamon@aol.com).