DESTINATION LODI

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY

SEARS ROEBUCK HOUSES

While Larry and I were cleaning up the yard of our new Lodi-Harrisville Historical House/Museum we meet the neighbors. The owner of Give Me a Break brought us water and the Weyland family provided us with cookies. They all were pleased the historical society bought the house, maintaining the home’s historical history.

While talking with the Weyland family they explained there home at 117 Harris Street is a Sear Roebuck Home Kit circa 1923. The owners said the windows have numbers on them, which was common.

The McClure Family at 204 Baker Street also has a Sears’s home circa 1910. If you remember, the Potts Guest Home is a Sears Roebuck Home. That makes three so far.

Sears Roebuck produced ready to assemble house kits from 1908-1940, building over 100,000.There were over 350 designs. The kit that came by rail included 30,000 pieces, 750 pounds of nails, 27 gallons of paint and varnish and a 75-page instruction book. The instruction stated it would take an average person 90 days to complete the home. Hiring a contractor would cost $450.00. The homes came at a cost of $650.00-$2500.

Plumbing, electrical and heating was not included but a kit was available through Sears.

Between the years 1911-1933, Sears offered mortgages.

Only approximately 10% of the Sears Roebuck homes sold and built have been located. There are a couple of things to look for if you think you have a kit house. Look for stamped lumber exposed on beams/joints/rafters or shipping labels with Sears’s headquarters address 925 Homan Ave. Chicago or Norwood Sash and Door in Ohio.

The decline of Sear Roebuck homes was due to the depression, complex house designs and government offered FHA loans.

Sears destroyed all records

The Lodi-Harrisville Historical Society has its new home now. We have moved some precious items in. We have the George Burr davenport circa 1850 donated from the Nettleton family and a phonograph from the Shaw Music Store circa 1823 donated from Glenn and Darleen Meek. We are looking for furniture that may have belonged to the Harris family. Many have inquired about their personal donations through the years. Ladies years ago had cataloged many donations. It will be a long labor of love process going through items in storage.

Please sent donations to Box 172 Lodi. We are half way to our goal!

The next historical program at the library will be September 13 @ 630pm. Mark Grimm will talk on Civil War uniforms.