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# HORIZONS

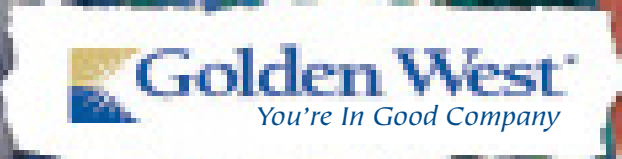
*A Golden West Customer Newsletter*  
March 2018

## Come Around to See What's Been Around at the **LITTLE VILLAGE FARM**

*Jim and Joan Lacey with daughter, Cheryl at the Little Village Farm.*

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Golden West is a Member of the SD Telecommunications Association

# Come Around to See What's Been Around

## at the LITTLE VILLAGE FARM

*It feels like every day we hear about the latest in technology, a fast gadget or new website aimed at making our lives easier. Change is inevitable and there is nothing wrong with embracing new, advancing technology. However, to truly appreciate the benefits of technology we need to look at our past and how we used to live and work. In an agricultural state like South Dakota, this means old barns, tractors, windmills, tools, etc. While you can find examples of these items scattered throughout the state, one place has amassed quite an impressive collection that you just have to see to believe.*

Located on a quiet South Dakota highway, just outside of the small east-river town of Trent, sits the Little Village Farm. This is not your typical farm though; it's a museum, antique shop, collector's nirvana and special event space. The brainchild of Golden West members Jim and Joan Lacey, the Little Village Farm was born out of the couple's love of honoring the past, collecting things and "some dumb luck." To understand what makes this place special, look no further than these three things: the barns, the items housed within, and the passion and knowledge of the Lacey's themselves.

Currently, the Little Village Farm has eleven barns, two of them built on site, the other nine relocated to the property throughout the years. "The first one we got, actually saved, was the round sale barn because it had a river encroaching on it," says Jim. While all eleven barns sitting together is a cool picture, seeing one of the last round barns in the state is a rare and unique sight. It is one of two barns the Lacey's moved from a farm northwest of Trent. "An earlier owner, James Peterson, sold purebred hogs from it from 1915 to 1935. He called his place "Little Village Farm," so we just adopted the name," explains Jim.

While the round barn is the eye-catcher, all the barns have their own story and purpose. There is the "40 x 60" barn, also from the original Little Village Farm, that houses the Lacey's restored tractor collection. The "Social Hall" is actually the top of an old stallion barn, and is available to host events like wedding receptions, plays and Christmas pageants. "Kristi Noem held her first political meeting in that barn," adds Joan. Another cool looking barn on site is a prefabricated unit called the "Small Granary." "It was built by the Kehm Brothers, they had lumberyards in Shindler and Harrisburg in the last century. We took the backroads on our way home from Clark and saw it sitting on a knoll two miles south of Badger," recalls Jim. "Finding it was dumb luck, but we made some inquiries and managed to buy it a year later," he adds.



There seems to be a pattern by which the Little Village Farm has grown over the years, dumb luck and a network of clients and friends. The Lacey's have a well-drilling operation that has taken them all over eastern South Dakota and the region. "When we're out on a job we come across old barns and windmills that are being destroyed, knocked down and burnt," says Joan. You could say that saving relics from going by the wayside has become the Lacey's mission. Recently, their network led them to acquire an old schoolhouse from a church located on the east side of Trent.

Finding these buildings is one thing, moving them is another. "We might have to call the power company to lift lines if the barn is too high, and we've had to remove and replace signs and mailboxes along the way due to width," explains Joan. The toughest barn the Lacey's moved was ironically also the lightest, the infamous round barn. "Nobody at the moving company had moved round barns before. Jim had to work some magic so they were able to pick it up," recalls Joan.

These barns are even more impressive when you see the overwhelming amount of collections and memorabilia within. From tractors, windmills, bottles and books, to hand tools, appliances, a fire truck and 7,500 hats that colorfully adorn their barns' ceilings. "I had some health issues and needed to protect myself from the sun, so I started collecting hats," says Joan.

A majority of the items the Lacey's have on display range from the 1840's to 1940's, but a few of their items go even further back. "We've got an old wooden sithe from the 1700's, but there are some bottles and books that go back to the 1600's," explains Joan. What you see as you enter one of their barns will depend on the theme. One barn features

household items like irons, a complete Ball canning jar collection, and a Maytag washing machine so rare, the Maytag Corporation does not even have one. Move to the next barn, you will find a Smithy shop (blacksmith) featuring all the tools a smith would need to shoe horses, etc. They also have a barn dedicated to items made of glass, and another barn featuring anything and everything related to raising chickens.

Jim and Joan are not resting on their laurels, as they continue to search for and welcome new additions to their museum. "We just got a Wayne clock face gas pump from a neighbor who found it while cleaning out a grove," says Jim. After putting in some time and money, they already have this pump on display and looking new. "People bring stuff by, friends call us, and I do a lot of rummaging," explains Joan. Not everything the Lacey's collect is only for show, as Joan has an antique store with spare items for sale along with Little Village Farm merchandise.

Seeing the barns and the items within is very interesting, but talking to Jim and Joan about the history behind each item makes a visit to Little Village Farm even better. Jim points to one of the many restored windmills, this one sitting out in front close to the road. "Joan found this one half buried when we were drilling north of South Shore. It's an open-gear Aeromotor power mill, the shaft, running down from bevel gearing, runs a small grinder, saws, corn-shellers and the like," details Jim

Another item of interest is their Jones Header, a big piece of farm equipment used in the early to mid-1800's. "It was used on the Bonanza farms up in North Dakota to cut the heads off of oat fields," says Joan.

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# Pay It Forward

During March,  
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Mission Elementary Schools



## Elementary Schools are Paying It Forward

Now in its third year, the Pay it Forward campaign gives back to local elementary schools thanks to help from Golden West customers. When a customer upgrades or subscribes to a new service in the month of March, Golden West will "pay it forward" by donating \$50 to that customer's local elementary school. Last year, Golden West customers donated \$17,700 to our local elementary schools!

At the end of the campaign, we send all the donations to area schools with one rule, their students decide how to put the money to good use.

We were happy to hear back from a number of elementary schools about how they used their 2017 donations.

- Bridgewater Elementary helped students in Rockport, Texas, a community recovering from Hurricane Harvey. "Our first, second and third-grade students wrote letters and cards to the students at Live Oak Learning Center, and they used our donation to buy supplies for the students that lost everything," says Bridgewater Elementary Principal Kim Aman.

- Martin Grade School purchased "gadgets" to promote coding in their math and science classes. "Students will build their own programs to run robots, build their own inventions and have fun in the process," says Martin Grade School Principal Amy Kuxhaus.

- Custer Elementary used some of their funds to pack meals for Nkungi (Africa) in conjunction with Kids Against Hunger. "Students learn about compassion, world hunger and are able to make a difference in the lives of fellow students, most who only receive one meal a day," says Custer Elementary Counselor Michelle Watland.

- Colton Elementary used their funds to sponsor fun parent/kid events called "Donuts with Dads" and "Muffins with Moms."

- Colome Elementary used their funds to sponsor a writing contest. Students were asked to write why they like being students at their school. The answers were shared in the local paper and the best writers were awarded gift cards.

It's heart-warming to see all the different ideas and causes supported by the elementary school students in our exchange. With your help, 2018's Pay it Forward campaign can inspire even more giving and brilliance from these great kids.



Custer Elementary Schools

## Family Night with Golden West

In February, we held a Family Food Night drawing for Golden West cable TV customers. Fifteen winners received a \$50 gift certificate to the restaurant or grocery store of their choice. We also kicked in a free On Demand movie credit to make their family night event better. Here are a few of the winners, showing us how they enjoy a night in with food, family and Golden West cable TV.



# FIBER TO THE HOME 2018

Fiber to the Home (FTTH) is Golden West's long-term plan to upgrade all 14,000 miles of our network from copper-based cable to fiber optics. Fiber optic technology, which uses pulses of light to transmit information, will provide our customers with faster, more reliable broadband Internet speeds and stronger connections. We're excited to make this investment in our communities and bring the latest technology directly to your homes and businesses.

Every year we move closer to our goal of upgrading our entire network and providing all our customers with the best telecommunications technology available. This year's FTTH projects will take place in Bonesteel, Marion, Martin, Midland, (rural) New Underwood and Pine Ridge. We will also begin the second phase of our project in Custer.

We recently held Open Houses in these communities to explain the construction process, the benefits of fiber, and answer questions.

## BENEFITS OF FIBER OPTICS:

- Greater bandwidth – Fiber provides more bandwidth than copper cables. This means you can use more data and devices at once with fewer problems.
- Speed and Distance – Once you're on fiber, you'll be able to receive Golden West's fastest internet speeds (if you want them), now and in the future.
- Long-Term Capability - Fiber optics is called "future proof" because of its ability to handle new and emerging technology.

Once complete, our customers' broadband Internet, cable TV and phone service will all be delivered through a fiber optic connection. FTTH will open new opportunities for local businesses, schools and healthcare providers, as well as help our communities thrive in the years to come.

If you live in one of this year's FTTH construction areas and have questions, call 1-855-888-7777 and ask for the Engineering Department.



## LITTLE VILLAGE FARM

*Continued from page 3:*

At one time, with the help of their friend's well-trained horses, the Lacey's demonstrated how the header would have been used.

The history of farming, barns and tractors are passions that Jim and Joan share with anyone interested, they're just not big on advertising. The Lacey's occasionally take their restored tractors to farm shows around the region, putting up a sign for the Little Village Farm and handing out flyers. In truth, the best way to contact the Little Village Farm is by calling their Golden West telephone to set up a museum tour. "Neither of us are computer people, so our advertising is generally by word of mouth. Just call us to make an appointment or stop on by," welcomes Joan. While the Lacey's do request a small donation for tours, spending time with Jim and Joan and learning about the history of everything they have is well worth the price.

"So much of this stuff is crowding 150 years-old, so someone else took care of it earlier. We are merely the caretakers," says Jim. With charming barns, amazing memorabilia, and Jim and Joan's wealth of knowledge, the Lacey's have cultivated a real "hidden" gem.

In South Dakota, a state with a rich agricultural past, we are lucky to have Jim and Joan Lacey inviting us to come around and see what's been around at their Little Village Farm.

The Little Village Farm is located on 240th Street, about one mile west of Trent, SD. They are open from April through October, and appointments for a guided tour can be made by calling (605) 428-5979. So the next time you are in the neighborhood, or out on a road trip, call or stop by to see it for yourself!

# Landlines are Cool. Right?

Golden West currently requires its customers to have a landline in order to receive our services. We could go into the Federal and financial reasoning for the requirement, and there are good reasons, but instead let's highlight three important reasons to have a landline.



**1. Emergency Location** – Your home phone number links to your address, giving 911 operators a fixed location to send first responders even if you're unable to speak. Cell phones rely on GPS reporting to cell-towers, which can take longer to send and only provide a general location as opposed to a specific address.

**2. Power Outages** – Phones on fiber come with a back-up battery unit (up to eight hours), and phones on copper receive their power through the phone line. If your cell phone dies and you can't charge it, your landline will be there ready to go.

**3. Voice Quality and Reception** – Landlines are hardwired into Golden West's network, giving you a more reliable signal and better sounding reception. Have you ever driven through a poor-reception area and unexpectedly lost your signal?

**While we're at it, here are three cool reasons to have a landline.**

**1. No Pressure to Upgrade** – Cell phone companies are constantly asking you to upgrade to a new phone, despite your current phone working just fine. Golden West will make sure your landline and all chosen features work, but what phone you use is up to you.

**2. No Accidental "Butt-Dials"** – Have you ever sat on your phone and accidentally called your friend Aaron? This won't happen with your home phone, unless you are really, really talented.

**3. Slamming the Receiver Feels Great** – We've all been there, on a frustrated phone call and ending it by firmly putting down the receiver. Jabbing an angry finger at your cell phone will end a call, it's just not nearly as gratifying. (Kids – ask your parents to demonstrate)

The Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative started as a telephone company in 1916, connecting rural communities in South Dakota. We're proud to still be providing this important and cool service for our members today.

1-855-888-7777 • [goldenwest.com](http://goldenwest.com) • [info@goldenwest.com](mailto:info@goldenwest.com)

