

Great Lakes Lifestyle

West family celebrates 125 years

With lunch boxes and books in hand, young Marcia, Earl and Patty West skip off to school after a healthy breakfast. That image was the cover photo of the Sept. 3, 1960, issue of *Michigan Farmer* magazine featuring the West family and the importance of a good breakfast. Today, 48 years later, the West family is again in the news.

Parents John Floyd and Dorothy West with their family, which also includes daughters Judy and Jackie, along with extended family members, welcomed neighbors and friends to their Lawndale Farm in Clayton Township in Genesee County to celebrate its 125th birthday.

The July 5 celebration included an old-fashioned ice cream social with all the toppings. More than 100 guests visited and toured the centennial farm and farm house. Of special note was the doctor buggy built by W.A. Paterson Co. of Flint and purchased by John Francis West in the mid-1890s.

The 40-acre farm was originally purchased in 1883 by John's grandparents, John Francis and Jane West for \$900. They had one son, Samuel Earl, who later married Blanche Lawcock and together they had five children before Samuel Earl died in 1930 at the age of

39. The matriarch of the family, Blanche West-Talsma passed away at the age of 101 in 1997.

John Floyd and his four siblings were born in the 100-year-old house that he continues to live in today.

The original shed-type barn was rebuilt in 1911 with a gable-style roof. A 20-foot section was added later along with a lean-to shed on the south end. It still stands strong today nearly 100 years later.



BACK IN TIME: The Sept. 3, 1960, issue of *Michigan Farmer*.



Shutter Stopper

Father's Day delight

DAVE and Sally Long, who farm in Elsie, recently went from one grandchild to five within six months. To celebrate the family expansion, this photo was taken for Dave as a Father's Day present. "The gals in the family sure had fun getting the little ones ready for this," Sally says. Nicholas, 3, (front left) and 8-month-old Hunter (in wagon on left) are sons of Mike and Val Long of Elsie. Sitting in the middle of the wagon is 5-month-old Oliver, son of Brad and Kerri Long of Owosso. Six-month-old Owen (in wagon at right) is the son of Travis and Sandy Long of DeWitt. Resting on the bean bag chair is Emmylou Marie, 1 month, daughter of Heidi and Josh Blaha of Ovid. Got a good quality photo to share? My supply is getting low! It can be of people, places or things. Electronic photos are preferred and can be sent to jvincent@farmprogress.com with the subject line being "shutter stopper." Standard photos can be sent to *Michigan Farmer*, 710 W. Park St., St. Johns, MI 48879. Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope if you want the photo returned. Tell us who took the picture and briefly explain the subject matter, and where and when it was taken. We look forward to sharing your photos with readers.



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