

# 1983 TREEHOUSE TIMES 2018

BIG TREEHOUSE CELEBRATES 35<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

In 2018, we invite you to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Big Treehouse with a curated walk through Mick's self-designed creation.

His unique Big Treehouse is located at historic Shady Oaks RV Campground. It's the place where a boy's dream came true, and the mighty oaks and a small maple tree shared the earth.

Michael (Mick) Jurgensen was only three years old when Shady Oaks became his home. Micky immediately felt akin to this historic setting. During our first summer, he called the south hill the Valley of Deep Green Fern and helped place stepping stones down its grassy slope. He built igloos against the embankment in winter. In summer, his special "being alone spot" was in the arms (branches) of this small backyard maple tree.

In 1980, Mick's love for landscaping, lighting and gardening became his hobby and passion.

Early in 1983, his Treehouse dream was designed in mind and on paper; and six pallets were delivered. By summer, his dream became a reality.

Mick's backyard odyssey grew, just as did the young maple tree.

Please call 641-752-2946 to schedule your tour, wear tennis shoes and bring your camera. Your guide will meet you at the south entrance by the Tree Spirit to start your epic adventure.

Going through the gate with your guide, you will stroll down "\$asy Street" edged by an elevated 50-foot-long flower box which overflows with flowers and trailing vinca vines. Above, festive fun flags blow in the breeze. In the spring, the winding steps of Snake Alley are bordered by wildflowers.

Later on, lush fern grow to tropical heights in the shade of the spreading bur oak umbrellas. Large

hostas flourish here, while tree frogs, katydids and locusts sing in harmony.

Surprise sound effects greet you here and there via the elevated boardwalk to the Treehouse. Push button activated voice recordings offer additional information.

The Big Treehouse may be reached by crossing a replica of the 1901 M&ST L Railroad Bridge; the original can be seen to the east. After Raccoon Hollar, the Covered Bridge Museum features the pictorial history of Shady Oaks, a Lincoln Highway landmark celebrating 92 years in 2017.

In the Treehouse, benches and porch swings offer places to pause for vistas of treetops, stream, garden and walkways. Hammered dulcimer music adds nostalgia to this beautiful natural setting.

Skywalk 2000 wraps around Level 10. Steps to the first 11 levels make the ascent quite easy. Level 12 is reached only by ladder. The 60-step Spiral Staircase winds up to or down from Level 11.

You leave the Treehouse via Michael Drive, the walk overlooking a small stream, to Fisherman's Landing. After passing the towering oaks, you cross over Mick's recreation of the Rainbow Bridge; the original was built in 1918 for the Lincoln Highway.

Every job is a self-portrait of the person who created it. Mick has autographed his work with excellence.

*"Remember, I am a special treehouse to tour. The variations of each level are characteristic of my structure and contribute to my uniqueness and beauty. Please view me with care."*

*"Please sign my guestbook at Hospitality Pt. where guests from 50 states, Washington D.C. and over 60 countries have registered. Thank you."*

For Treehouse Reservations, Call 641-752-2946

Fair Weather Visits Only – Tennis Shoes Required (No Flip-Flops)  
Hwy. 30, 3 Mi. East of Marshalltown or 3.5 Mi. West of Exit 192 at Le Grand  
Turn North on Shady Oaks Rd. & Travel ¼ Mi. to 2370 (East Side)

Home of Historic Shady Oaks RV Campground

<http://www.bigtreehouse.net> Email: [marygift@mchsi.com](mailto:marygift@mchsi.com)

Mary Gift Judy Gift-Jurgensen Mick & Liz Jurgensen

