

# PRESSRELEASE

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## For Immediate Release

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## Summer 2005 at Barker Mansion

**Michigan City, IN** (June 30, 2005) – Historic Barker Mansion's summer display 'Party Dresses and Pretty Hats' may be seen each day with regular guided tours at 10AM, 11:30 AM, and 1:00 PM Monday -Friday and 12 noon and 2:00 PM Saturday and Sunday. This display includes designer gowns of vintage fabrics belonging to Mrs. John H. Barker, her daughter Catherine, and other individuals. A black lace and velvet French gown, a Charles Wright designed gown, flapper dresses, and a Jackie Kennedy styled gown are among those displayed.

"Lemonade in the Garden" is offered Monday-Friday from 2-3PM when guests are invited to sit or to stroll through the gardens while enjoying a glass of lemonade.

Barker Mansion's turn of the century architectural style garden is based on a design by Jens Jensen, noted landscape architect, as commissioned by Mrs. John Barker in 1909. It includes a pool in the center with four walkways leading to it. The garden is filled with statuary that was purchased by the Barkers. Flanking the entrance to the garden are two guardian lions and across the garden a pair of 19<sup>th</sup> century garden herms, Priapus and Flora, are featured. A griffin bench and sundial are under a one hundred year old lilac tree. Two Jugendstil lamps with opalescent glass globes provide decorative lighting for the teahouse. Plantings today include roses, annuals, perennials and a yew hedge. The brick walkways and brick areas under the pergolas have recently been restored to their original design. The garden is the setting for weddings during the summer months.

Barker Mansion is a 1905 house museum and was the home of railroad industrialist John H. Barker. The Mansion is on the National Register of Historic Places and includes original furnishings, art objects, and garden sculpture. Barker Mansion is located at 631 Washington St., Michigan City, IN. For additional information call (219) 873-1520.