

Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's fall/winter season 2007

Volume I, Issue 1

What is the Sainte Marie Foundation?

It's a *new* organization, formed exclusively for charitable purposes – to help improve and sustain our home town. *We're hoping that those who grew up in the area and moved away will be the major supporters of this Foundation – as a way of "giving back" to the community where they grew up.*

Small rural towns across the nation are struggling as urban areas attract more and more people. Sainte Marie has survived better than most small towns. It's still the "prettiest little town," as one Chicago visitor describes it. Some of the old businesses have left, but others are taking their places. Sainte Marie residents *care* – about their neighbors, about the way the town looks, about how neat and well-groomed every parcel of property is. The town has been blessed with an involved citizenry and great leadership. But now they could use help in maintaining and improving public facilities, preserving the town's history and preventing deterioration. That's why the Foundation exists.

Will you help? We have lots of great ideas – like eventually having a house that former residents could use when they come back "home" for weddings, funerals or family reunions – but the ideas cannot be realized without help from people like you. Please return the enclosed form with your donation or tell us what you can do to help. For example, can you format a newsletter, create and maintain a website, help us with mailings, maintain a database of

donors/volunteers, donate office space, help with an arts weekend????

What's Happening in Town?

-Ste. Marie is preparing for the winter months. *Maxine Calvert and Annette Lynch* are working with the Community Club to decorate the big tree at the Town Hall. They also have an angel display in the window of the old bank – just something to brighten that once-handsome, historic building (102 years old). The holiday banners are going up – thanks to *Ron Kirts'* lift truck. And residents are "Lighting Up the Village" (our theme) with Christmas lights to brighten the winter darkness.

-As a memorial for *Louis (d. 1967) and Bernadette Reis (d. 2007)*, children, grandchildren, and other relatives recently had five young trees planted on the south side of St. Mary's church hall where many older trees have died off in recent years. Louis and "Bernie" loved Ste. Marie where they spent their entire lives.

Seen Around Town

Don and Sara Helregel, Lexington, KY; *Gloria (Zuber) Schwartz*, Belleville, IL; *Ruthann Gowin*, River Grove, IL; *Dean Gowin*, Mattoon, IL; *Vincent and June (Keller) Zuber* were in Ste. Marie in mid-September .

-*Ted Barthelme* (Las Vegas) brought his two sons to Ste. Marie last spring to show them where he grew up. It was a short visit, as they were on their way to visit Ted's sister, *Jean (Barthelme)*

Regas, in Indianapolis after attending a Cardinal's game in St. Louis. Ted and Jean's parents were "*Bud*" and *Evelyn Barthelme* of the Barthelme Store clan.

Did You Know.....

-that *Elisabeth (Hartrich) Thacker* is the artist who etched the picture and words on the massive Burl Ives headstone in the Mound Cemetery northeast of Willow Hill? Elisabeth, daughter of Mary (Sonny) Hartrich, has also done some beautiful pictures on headstones located in Ste. Marie's Cemetery. Visit the cemetery next time you're in town to see her outstanding work.

-that *Terry Kirts*, son of Ron and Carolyn (Litzelman) Kirts, writes restaurant reviews for an Indianapolis magazine? Terry also teaches creative writing at IUPUI (Indiana U/Purdue).

-that the *Hideout*, Ste. Marie's well-known restaurant, was cited in the 2007 Southeast Illinois Tourism book for its "onyums," fried, shredded onions with a unique coating of spices created by the Hideout's owners. Their popular Friday night Fish Fry is a *must* if you are in town. You might have to park a block away.

-that *The Gas Station* has the best pizza in town? OK, so it's the only fresh pizza in town, but it's still really good. The Gas Station has a fully stocked mini-market and great coffee offered at 6 a.m.

-that *Hartrich's Meat Processing* is doing more catering these days? They will provide your family gathering with delicious meats and side dishes. Stop by their store and check out all the awards they have won for their meat products, plus they carry a variety of special

hometown products, i.e., Peach Salsa, Apple Butter, Pickled Beets, etc.

What Is the Foundation Doing Now?

1. Filling out forms! The Foundation is incorporated as a not-for-profit organized under Illinois law. Conceived in August, 2007, it already is certified by the IL Secretary of State and the Attorney General's offices. We are also seeking IRS 501(c)(3) status as a tax exempt organization. Officers of the Foundation are: *Patricia Reis* (Chicago), president; *Maxine Calvert* (Ste. Marie), VP/Treasurer; *Gina Mullinax Fox* (Ste. Marie), secretary.

2. Tracking down former Ste. Marie residents who live around the globe! It's amazing how far some of our folks have gone, like *Judy (Alblinger) Brangeon* who lives outside Paris, France. We hope they still have a soft spot in their hearts for this little village where they grew up. **Will you help by sending us names of friends and family???**

3. Improving Ste. Marie. Foundation leaders attended a tax auction and bought the back taxes on an abandoned house, the one (across from the old church hall) that has been empty for over five years. If all goes well, the Foundation will get a tax deed on the house in two years. Purpose: to get rid of an eyesore on Ste. Marie's main street.

Houses for Sale in Ste. Marie

Would you like to buy a house in Ste. Marie? There are some available now – from small retirement homes to several large old homes that need some extensive renovation.

This newsletter needs a graphic artist! Where are the pix? No logo?? And so many words! So, OK, it was done by a writer, but *come on.....* Anyway, hope you enjoyed it. The spring version will be much improved, we hope, and will feature some new folks in town.
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