



# Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's winter season 2009

Volume 2, Issue 1

## Plans for the Year

The Foundation continues to thrive, with lots of help from donors and volunteers. Our plans for the coming year include:

- May 23 Foundation Garage Sale
- June 20 Community Club Garden Walk
- Sept. 5 A Hometown Celebration
- Nov. 19-21 Quilt Show/Open House
- All thru December Light Up the Village

We hope you will continue to support our efforts to save the history of Sainte Marie and also provide a "home" for those of you who live far away and want to return for a while. We continue to need your help.

## May 23 Foundation Garage Sale 7 a.m. – noon

Thanks to the Community Club, a village-wide garage sale has been held each May on the Saturday before Memorial Day. This year the Foundation will join the festivities in hopes of raising some funds to benefit the Foundation House renovation.

***Do you have good, salable items to donate to the Foundation?*** We will accept antiques, furniture, appliances (working, please!), linens and glassware/dishes. (NO CLOTHES). A tax donation letter will be provided, and we will even pick up items from your house (provided you are nearby!). We will accept items at the Foundation House every Sat. during May from 8 a.m. – noon. Call Dottie Valbert Rumpp 618-455-3248 for pick-up info or if you would like to volunteer to help us.

## **Foundation House Update**

Foundation House work is progressing. At two workdays in October and another in January, volunteers cleaned out the garage and little barn, washed walls and removed wallpaper in the house, painted and cleaned. Thanks go to: **Maurice and Maxine Calvert, Bob Helregel, Ron and Carolyn Kirts, Annette Lynch, John Michl, Pat Reis, Dottie and Robert Rumpp, Glenda Schwartz, Anita Steber, Anna Lou Stone, Sam Zuber and Hartrich Meats** for providing lunch on the workdays.

(PIX caption:) *Sam Zuber scrapes off layers of wallpaper.*

Over the past month, Larry Hahn Construction has rehabbed three rooms on the first floor (our concentration right now, as we have had requests from companies and organizations who would like to use the house for employee parties/meeting).

What do we need? Folding tables and chairs. (*See next article.*) And help on our volunteer work days.

## **Tables and Chairs for the Foundation House**

The Foundation House needs sturdy folding tables and chairs. Would you donate \$200 for a set?

The children of **Annette Reis Lynch (Kerry, Shannon and Tara)** were the first to respond to this request. Here's what **Kerry Lynch** wrote when he sent his donation:

*This year when I called and asked my mother what she would like for her birthday, she said she just wanted donations sent to the Sainte Marie Foundation. Those who know Annette realize how proud she is of her Sainte Marie heritage. She often tells stories of her childhood and loves it even more when her children tell stories about spending time with their Grandmother. After she retired from the Charleston School District, she had her pick of places to live. I live in Florida and my brother lives in California. We both tried our best to get her to live near one of us, but we really never had a chance. Because she already knew she was going back to Sainte Marie.*

*As most of us have come to appreciate, my mother is fiercely loyal and incredibly dedicated to her family, friends and community. This brings me to her birthday present. **My brother and I are sending a donation in my mother's name for a table and four chairs at the Foundation House.***

*I hope the community is as dedicated to the Foundation as my mother. She is one of many who want to make sure the children of Sainte Marie and their families will have a place to visit and share the fond memories of growing up in that wonderful area.....*

*Kerry Lynch*

*The very proud son and grandson of Annette Lynch and Bernadette Reis*

## **View Historical Interviews**

Visit the Sainte Marie State Bank during business hours and view the Foundation's historical interviews at your leisure. Don Alblinger has graciously allowed us to put a TV and DVD player in the bank for this purpose. See interviews of: *2008 Come Back Home Celebration, The Quilting Ladies, Rommona Hunzinger Ochs, Ron Kirts, Evelyn Geltz Kocher, Marge Barthelme Hartrich and son Ken, Paul Mullinax, and Josephine Spitzer*. Thanks again to Kathy Yager who organized the DVD interviews.

## **Two New Directors for Board**

Two new directors were recently added to the Foundation Board for three year terms:

**Ron Kirts**, longtime Ste. Marie resident and former owner of Alblinger and Kirts, will assume responsibility for upkeep at the Foundation House (his childhood home). Who could be better at it!

**Mike Hartrich**, recently retired Newton Community High School (NCHS) athletic director, grew up in Ste. Marie but is a longtime resident of Newton where he taught English and history at both junior and senior high schools. He is the Foundation's new Historical Director and will take an active role in bringing the museum into being within the Foundation House.

2009 Foundation officers are: President **Patricia Reis**, Chicago; Vice-president **Ron Kirts**; Secretary **Gina Mullinax Fox**, Treasurer **Maxine Calvert**, Ste. Marie residents.

## **We Get Letters**

Thanks for the notes/letters (and welcome donations) from former Ste. Marie residents:

**-Evelyn Radke Null** wrote: *I so enjoy the newsletter! Please send winter issue to our address in FL. It was a great Labor Day weekend. So glad we got to tour the Kirts (Foundation) house – I spent sleepovers there with Joan.*

**-Mary Kathryn Geltz Berry** (Olney) wrote: *My venture into LIFE began in the heart of Sainte Marie – in the one-time Geltz Hotel. I was born there... how many others can make that claim?*

**-Dorothy Helregal Mathious** (Burbank, CA) sent a two page letter full of memories. Dorothy is a

professional singer who got her start in Ste. Marie. She wrote: *In grade school I studied piano with Father George Windsor, our pastor, who let me practice on the big organ at church. We weren't able to get a piano till I was fourteen.....My sister Marilyn and I used to entertain at Hamer Stone's Implement meetings, singing country songs with guitar..... I also sang at the Legion Hall and at the old church hall. Later when I lived in Chicago studying music, I came back and sang a recital in 1962 in that dear place. (The full version of this letter will soon be on our website.) We have invited Dorothy (and her tenor husband) to do another recital anytime she is visiting Sainte Marie!*

## **News Notes**

-Four grandchildren of **Mon and Mattie Spitzer** visited Ste. Marie last fall. Hosted by Pat Reis and Maxine Calvert, the group viewed Don Alblinger's collection of old Ste. Marie paintings at the bank, had lunch at the Hideout and toured the Foundation House. "We all have fond memories of our visits with our Ste. Marie grandparents," said Jeanne Hartman Webber. Mon Spitzer was Ste. Marie's blacksmith. See picture below.

GROUP PIX HERE.

(Wrap caption around picture).

(CAPTION) L-R: Betty Ann Schuch Moore (Robinson, IL), Jerry Schuch (Forest Park, IL), Helen Jean Schuch Battershell Pretz, (Indianapolis, IN), Jeanne Hartman Webber (Indianapolis), Marsha Schuch (Jerry's wife), Larry Webber, Jeanne's husband visited Ste. Marie in early October.

Also seen in town: **Joyce Alblinger Mast** (CO) and daughter **Melissa**. In late fall **Joan Kirts Heneberry** (PA) and her husband toured the Foundation House with brother Ron Kirts. Joan grew up in this house, and so many of her friends have told us stories of playing with her in the back playroom. (*Editor's note: Come back this summer, Joan, as we have made dramatic improvements on the house.*)

-Congrats to the **Ste. Marie Community Club** who hosted a very popular Halloween haunted house in the village hall and fire house. People waited in line for hours to have the hair-raising experience. The Foundation supplied some witches (who faded away long before the midnight closing) to add glam.

-An era passes: Ste. Marie recently voted to join the Wade Fire District (Newton's) so will no longer have its own fire department. The village will soon be selling its fire truck and other fire-fighting

equipment. We sure would like to keep that old fire truck in town!!

### **Hometown Reunion on Sept. 5, 2009**

It was Come Back Home last year; this year the name is **A Hometown Celebration**, but our purpose is still the same – to provide an event that welcomes all former Ste. Marie residents, their families and friends to a lively event in our super little hometown. Those of you who were with us last year raved about the event. So mark your calendars now: Saturday, Sept. 5 (Labor Day weekend) starting with a buffet lunch at the Hideout from 11:30 – 2:30 (advance reservations required so watch for the brochure).

Last year our historical display featured school pictures. This year we want **WEDDING PICTURES**, so start looking for yours (even if you are no longer married). Also, we want your grandparents' picture – or you as a flower girl or ring-bearer, any picture related to a wedding (and it doesn't have to be a wedding IN Ste. Marie – just so there is a connection, such as a groom from Ste. Marie, or you now live in SM, etc.).

Here's how to get the pix to us:

1. Scan and send via e-mail to Annette Lynch at [lookamazing@consultant.com](mailto:lookamazing@consultant.com) OR
2. Have pix copied at Walmart or your local drugstore and send to the Foundation OR
3. Drop off original to **Kathy Slankard** at **Sainte Marie State Bank** and we will scan and return to you.

When you give us a picture, please include: Date and location of wedding, names of those in picture/s (including maiden names of Ste. Marie women, please!) and your current address.

MOM'S PIX

The Sainte Marie Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Send comments to writer/editor Pat Reis, [patreisprpr@yahoo.com](mailto:patreisprpr@yahoo.com). The Foundation is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, duly recognized as an Illinois charitable corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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See [www.saintemariefoundation.org](http://www.saintemariefoundation.org)  
for current news & updates

**Don't forget:  
Get items ready for the Foundation  
to sell on May 23 at the Ste. Marie  
Garage Sale. Call for pick-up.**

**Workdays at Foundation House  
February 20 and 21 – 9 to 3**