



Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's fall season 2009

Volume 2, Issue 4

Highlights of the Hometown Celebration

7 a.m. – A sleepy group of people meet at Village Hall to set up for the 5K Fun Run/Walk. Organizer **Annette Hahn Kirts and daughter Bridget** are well prepared; everyone who registered early has a tee shirt. We spread the labeled shirts out on tables and wait for the onslaught. By 7:30 a.m. people in running clothes are starting to gather. Some buy coffee from the **Gas Station** or the **Hideout** (who started serving biscuits and gravy at 7). Others stretch and look athletic. People gather in small groups to talk.

8 a.m. sharp, **Mike Hartrich**, retired NCHS athletic director and Foundation Board member, shoots off a starting gun to get everyone's attention. About 125 people gather for the start. "You're going to run on practically every street in town," Mike announces,



"and if you get lost, just walk a block or two in any direction, and you will be back on track." Everyone laughs. Mike fires off the gun again, and they're off. Four of us go for biscuits and

gravy. No point in wearing ourselves out so early in the day.

8:30 a.m. The fire house is open, and people start gathering to marvel at the Wedding Picture Exhibit prepared by **Annette Reis**



Lynch. All day long, people come and go – some come back two or three times, because it takes a while to view 150 pictures. And there's always something you missed.

11 a.m. The artists arrive to set up their exhibits. **Deb Ritz Reich, Helen Keller Graham** (pictured at right), **the Hartrich family artists (including Liz, Phyllis, Maverich Goss, and Megan Thacker)**, and **Cindy Sheridan Carlson**. What an array of gorgeous art they all bring!



11:30 The **Hideout** starts serving the buffet lunch. Yum. We're eating again.

2 p.m. The siren wails on the Fire District's yellow pick-up, leading a gala parade with **Mary Hartrich** featured as the Parade Marshall, and all her children proudly marching behind Mary's "coach" (well, okay, it was a golf cart but beautifully decorated!). We were treated to decorated bikes, wagons, carts, floats and a plethora



Veterans (l to r) George Kirts, Clarence Keller, Don Ochs and Sam Zuber lead the parade.

of politicians who pleased the crowd with buckets of thrown candy.



(l-r) Brady and Clayton Reis in the mini golf cart).



Nicole Goff as the Runaway Bride.

The First Communion Girls: (l-r) Catherine Ochs and Ariana Goss



The Dorothy Hahn Family Float with live tree and theme: "Deeply Rooted in Ste. Marie"

3 p.m. It starts to drizzle and people spend time inside looking at the wedding picture display or watch historical videos in the Village Board Room.

4 p.m. **Ron Kirts** and his sister **Joan Kirts Heneberry PA**, host an open house at the Foundation House, their childhood home. People are amazed at the improvements made during the past year.



Ron and Joan

6 p.m. The event committee breathes a sigh of relief – despite the afternoon rain, all is well. Another successful reunion. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

Annette Kirts (l) and daughter Bridget Randolph (r) give proceeds (\$790) of the Fun Run to Foundation President Pat Reis and Treasurer Maxine Calvert.



The Case of the Traveling Tub

When the Foundation acquired the old Kirts house, we were dismayed to learn that the old claw foot tub in the second floor bathroom was gone. We wanted to replace it with another and sent **Terry Kirts** off to look at antique places in Indianapolis. The cost of replacement was just out of the question, given all the other repairs the house needed.

Then **Don Albers**, owner of DCA Construction, visited the house one day in late June. He admired all the renovations we had made, but when he came to the bathroom, he asked, “Well, where is the tub?” We replied that we thought he had taken it. Pensively, he replied, “You know, I think it is still in one of our sheds in Breeze. I will check.”

He did. And the next week his crew brought back the tub. They even carried it up the stairs for us, bless them! **Maxine Calvert** cleaned it up and painted the outside. Soon it will be hooked up and ready for use once again.



Maxine Calvert cleaning up the old tub.



The finished product!

Update: Foundation House

DCA Construction will be using the house until at least the end of the year, since they have a major building project in the area. Therefore, the Foundation is cancelling the November Quilt Show (Nov. 19). Perhaps we will do it next year.

But volunteers have been working on weekends. All the upstairs bedrooms have been plastered and painted, as of the end of August. Volunteers started the winterizing with caulk. **Bob Helregel** and **Ron Kirts** painted outside window trim, except for two second floor windows that could not be reached.

Outside, thanks to a generous donation from the relatives of **Loretta Zuber**, we are doing landscaping at the front of the house in her memory. We hope to have that in before winter comes.

We also are replacing the fascia – a really necessary repair that we MUST do before the rotting boards simply fall off!

Visitors stayed at the house during weekends this summer – for reunions, weddings, etc. Contact **Sandy Hartrich** 618-455-3575 to book your stay. Plan ahead. Summer fills up fast! We rely on donations to maintain the house.

News Notes

-Part of the joy of a summer visit with your grandmother in Ste. Marie is making new friends. **Kaleb Lynch**, grandson of **Annette Reis Lynch**, spent several weeks in town and ended up taking two new friends for a visit to Florida when he returned home via car. **Landon Mashburn** (son of **Shane and Amy**) and **Chase Goss** (son of **Larry and Christina** and grandson of **John/Rose Michl**) had their first look at the Atlantic Ocean and enjoyed a day at Universal Studios. “It was great fun,” says Chase. “I wish my whole family could have gone!”



Chase and Landon on their first visit to the Atlantic Ocean.

-**Mandy Zuber Huber** reports that she and her family are now back in the states – at Fort Polk, LA, “only about 13 hours from Ste. Marie”, as Mandy puts it. Come back often, Mandy.

-A correction: The **Children of Jud and Emma Cameron** donated the set of table and four chairs that we attributed to **Jud and Sandra Cameron**. Sorry for the error.

-Don't miss the **Haunted House** sponsored by the **Ste. Marie Community Club**. The event was so popular last year that it will be offered *two weekends* this year, October 23rd/24th and October 30th/31st. Call Becky Catt 618-455-3267 for time and cost.

Transitions

-**Major General E. Ray Ochs**, 84, FL, grew up on a farm west of Ste. Marie and attended West Point. He commanded the 173rd Airborne Brigade during the Vietnam Conflict and had a 37-year military career. In 2000, he and his wife Inez created the *Christine Ablinger Teacher's Scholarship Fund* at NCHS, honoring the Ste. Marie teacher who single-handedly ran the old SM (two-year) High School. When it closed, she taught English at NCHS for many years. Ochs attributed his success to the great education he received in Jasper County.

-**Helen Hoecherl Habenstreit**, 93, lived with her sisters **Mildred and Mary Hoecherl** in the house across from the rectory.

We Get Letters

-**Mary Hartrich** wrote: *Thank you one and all for the honor of being Parade Marshal. It was fun! It brought the family together for a reunion, including my son Joe and family from CA, my sister and all her children from OR & VA. Thanks to my children for doing so much to make the weekend memorable. And thank you for the cozy, warm throw. Love to all.*



Mary Hartrich with her embroidered throw.

Jerry and Marsha Schuch, Glenwood, IL, attended the Labor Day weekend events and wrote us later: *Great visiting Ste. Marie last weekend and seeing*

firsthand the progress that has been made on restoring the Foundation House. It is amazing and remarkable what you and your crew of volunteers have accomplished in less than a year! As it turned out, there were nine of us “out-of-town Spitzers” (his grandparents were Mon and Mattie Spitzer) who came.....You have a lot to be proud of as does all of Ste. Marie!

Joyce Ritz Baker, Tuscola, and **Joan Radke Rans**, Newport Beach, CA, sent donations and told us how much they enjoy the newsletter. Joyce wrote, *“I read it from front to back. Brings back memories. Thank you.”*

Margo Regas, Indianapolis, could not attend the Sept. 5 event due to knee surgery, but she sent a donation and note: *“I love hearing everything the group is doing for the town and the house. Amazing group of people!”* Margo is the daughter of **Bill and Jean Barthelme Regas**.

Ken Meyer, DCA Construction, dropped off this note: *“You did a beautiful job of fixing this old house. It really is looking good. Please accept these two old radios as a compliment to the great things you have accomplished here. I hope they will add a little nostalgic atmosphere to the house.”* Thanks, Ken. We hope you are enjoying your stay in the house along with your crew.

Thanks

-To **Mont Eagle Mills, Inc.** for their financial support of the Hometown Celebration.

-To **DM Manufacturing and owner Don Geltz** for new wrought iron rails at the Foundation House front entrance.

Ste. Marie's Quails and Coyotes

Writer **Chuck Martin** (his wife **Mary Jo's** mother was **Eloise Barthelme**), Bryon, IL, had an exhibit table at the Hometown Celebration where he sold copies of his article “Coyotes and Ste. Marie,” published in the magazine Quail Unlimited. Here's an excerpt:

At its height, around 1900, Ste. Marie had over 1,400 residents, which were served by a hospital, high school, railroad, Catholic seminary, grain elevators, sawmills, a creamery, two hat shops, a blacksmith, the bank, general store and many other small

Sainte Marie Foundation
P.O. Box 186
Sainte Marie, IL 62459

See www.saintemariefoundation.org
for current news & updates



Visitors at the September 5 Hometown Celebration enjoyed rides around town in this fringed surrey.

(Continued from page 3)
businesses. The Great Depression, however, took its toll, and the town shrunk quickly to its present population of 300.

As much as I admire the town and its people, I detest the coyote population that seems to thrive in and around this quiet little hamlet. (Ed. Note: after all he is a quail hunter, and coyotes also hunt them!!).

Martin goes on to relate a hair-raising tale about hunting quail one day and having to confront some coyotes. Get a copy of the article or more info on the magazine, where Chuck has a regular column, at: C.Martin@RockValleyCollege.edu.

Here's what Chuck had to say about his weekend in Ste. Marie: *"Our son, Kyle, age 24, joined us for the (church) picnic on Sunday. We had a great time, and even won a small amount of \$ at Bingo. Kyle remembered pitching dimes for glassware when he was five. He won three additional glasses this year, two he kept and one he gave to his mother. Amazing*

how memories can be created from such wholesome activities. That is one of the things we like best about Ste. Marie. Thanks again for the opportunity to be a part of your "hometown".

E-mail Newsletter

If you would like to get the newsletter via e-mail, just send Pat a note at patreisprpr@yahoo.com. Postage gets more expensive every day, it seems. Plus we will save paper costs. We are no longer mailing to Ste. Marie addresses, since the newsletter is available all over town. Thank you for your understanding.

New Board Member



Annette Hahn Kirts (pictured at left) was recently appointed to the Foundation Board. A lifelong Ste. Marie resident, Annette works for the Jasper County schools and is Ste. Marie's village clerk. Other directors are: **Pat Reis** (Chicago), **Ron Kirts** and **Maxine Calvert** (Ste. Marie) and **Mike Hartrich** (Newton).