



Sainte Marie Foundation News

Celebrating our special hometown Spring 2022

Volume 15 Issue 2

Sainte Marie Farmers Market To Begin 3rd Season



June 4th was opening day of the **Sainte Marie Farmers Market**. The **Market** will be open on Saturdays from 8-noon through September 24th. Vendors, food, and music will make **Picquet Park** the place to be! Mike Hartrich will have the **Foundation House and Museum** open most days during the **Farmers Market** so you can view the **House and Museum**. We will have the special **Sainte Marie Christmas Farmers Market** at the **Foundation House** and the **Sainte Marie Community Club's Whoville** event will be held throughout the village on Saturday, November 26, 2022.



Gas Grill purchased with funds from Orell Farley grant. This will be used for concession sales during the Farmers Market and for use by the Sainte Marie Community Club.

Foundation House Hours

The Sainte Marie Foundation House will be open for visitors Saturdays during the Farmers Market and on the first Sunday of each month from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. Please come visit and see the exhibit, A Sainte Marie Christmas, while it is still on display. A new exhibit on display around March 2023, will focus on Sainte Marie's celebrations of the Bicentennial, the 1962, 1987, and 2012 events, the Bend Picnic and Sainte Marie's Pre-Labor Day Picnic. More info to come.



The **Cork & Pork Festival**, the second largest fundraiser for the **Sainte Marie Foundation** will be held on Saturday, July 9th. The schedule for the day is as follows:

8:00- noon Sainte Marie Farmers Market

9:00-10:00 am John Lybarger Memorial Jeep Run Registration

10:00 am Jeep Run begins. Stops will be **MVP, Muddy Saloon, BJ's Saloon, SKY Saloon** and **The Hill**.

5:00-9:00 pm Pork Food Stand open

5:00-11:00 pm Beer Garden

6:00-10:00 pm Matt Poss Band plays

Eight wineries will also be present for you to purchase wines and enjoy their offerings.

Profit made from the **Cork & Pork Festival** and **Jeep Run** go to local groups and organizations and to date over \$151,000.00 has been given back. We wouldn't be able to do it without all our generous sponsors! **THANK YOU**. A complete list of sponsors will be in the next newsletter. See flyers for both events later in the newsletter.



(See flyers on back page)

Town Talk Restaurant Now Open

Exciting things are always happening in Sainte Marie, but one of the most anticipated events is here! The Town Talk Restaurant, housed in the former Alblinger and Kirts Hardware Store in downtown Sainte Marie, is set to open this weekend. Owners Brad and Becky Ederer are not firm on hours yet, they but are thinking 11am- 9pm during the week and 11am-11pm on the weekend. As you can see by the pictures, the inside and outside of the building have been transformed in the past several months. Their phone number is 618-455-3737 and the address in 101 S. Main in Sainte Marie.



Exterior of the restaurant



East wall of dining room



Booths with bar in the background



Booths in dining area with TVs. The seating capacity will be 204 people.



Brad and Becky's son, Alex, with Ste. Marie friends

Newsflash

Town Talk Restaurant is Open!

I got there at 10:55 am and the first person I saw was Dave Geltz. He said, "I was the first one here this morning. I got here at 10 am to make sure I would be. You know this is going to be in the next Sainte Marie history book!" Since Dave was the first one to order food, I decided I wanted to be the first to order a beer at the bar on opening day...

Other locals that were getting ready to eat when I walked in were Bob Helregel, Susie Ochs, Sherrie Hemrich and Dee Kurpiel. George and Chlorine Kirts came in and joined Dave Geltz. Norma Ochs, fellow Sainte Marie Board member came in and ate with me and Bob. About the time we finished eating, Jeremy Lybarger and other workers from Borgic Custom Pumping came in and proclaimed the big booth in the back as their booth. It will seat 8-10 people. As Bob and I walked out the door, we saw Annette Kirts having lunch and coming in the door was Herb Jones, from our neighboring village to the east, Oblong.

Brad and Becky Ederer were busy and could not pose for a picture, but we will save that for the next newsletter. The Sainte Marie Community is so excited and proud to get this restaurant and we hope people will come and try it out very soon. Just remember to be patient and kind as they figure things out and get the kinks worked out!!

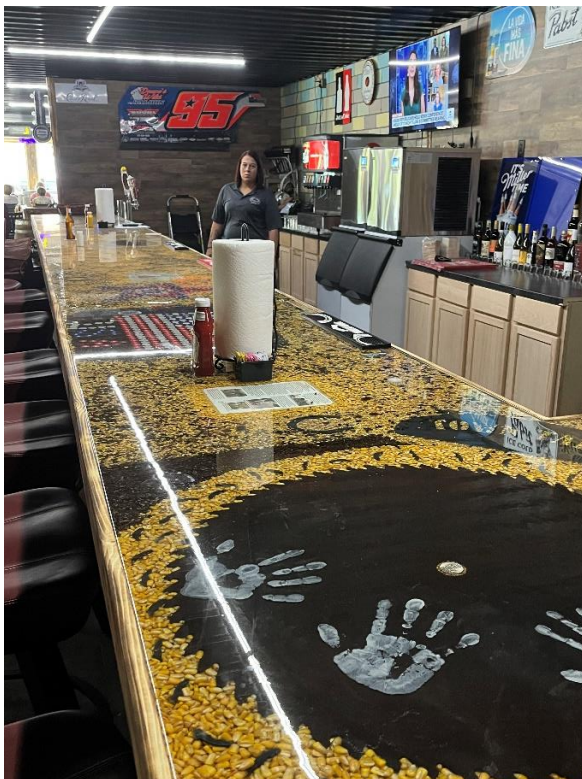
Donna M. Keller. Sainte Marie Foundation Board member



Dave Geltz first customer at Town Talk



Customers on Opening Day



Town Talk Bar



Donna Keller first beer purchased

2022 Flower Baskets



It is late Spring in Sainte Marie, and that can only mean one thing...the flower baskets are hung! Fifteen gorgeous baskets loaded with Bubblegum petunias once again grace the streets of our little town. What a beautiful tradition this has become, and we have many people to thank for this effort. The work on the baskets begins long before the flowers fill our streets with wonderful blooms. Carolyn Keller has volunteered to collect the money and donations for the baskets. Shady Maples Greenhouse has planted and cared for the baskets for us the past two years until they are ready to make their trip to Sainte Marie. Sharon Tuttle and help picked up the baskets, sprayed them for aphids, and hung them. We have a new crew of waterers this year: Mike Hartrich, Dylan Barthelme, Marie Kuhl, Jason Warfel, and Ron Kirts. They will take care of the very important job of keeping the plants nourished. To help them in this endeavor, Bob, Donna, Jason, and Anna Keller are selling the Foundation a golf cart at a very generous price. The cart will haul the water necessary for the crews to do their jobs.

Signs listing the sponsors of the baskets can be seen at the old Sainte Marie State Bank. Thank you to Dolores and Larry Hahn for hanging these.

Flower Basket Sponsors

American Legion Auxiliary Post 932
American Legion Post 932
ASL Solutions, Inc.
B J's Decorating – Bonnie Jackson-Hancock
Matt & Cindy Borgic Family
Sylvia Geltz Brinkoetter
Copper Transport, Inc.
Cork & Pork Festival
Hartrich Meats, Inc.
Mont Eagle Mills, Inc.
Mont Eagle Products, Inc.
Glenn & Brenda Picquet

Reis Farms – David & Scott
Rising Sun Family Farm
Sainte Marie State Bank
Randy & Susan Stoops
The Hill, LLC
David Wiltshire

IN MEMORY OF

Gilbert & Bernita Barthelme
From their family

Joe & Marjorie Barthelme
From their family

Neenah Bogard, Paul Bogard, Don Bogard
From Ted & Susie Ochs

**Judson & Emma Cameron, Jud Cameron
& Carol Martin**
From the Cameron family

Hilda Dallmier & Margaret (Dallmier) Townsend
From George Dallmier & family

**Harry, Edith & Thomas Elie
Ira, Anna & Edmond Shryock
Leo, Katherine & Bob Muhs**
From Patrick & Carolyn Elie

Paul & Regina Faltemier
From Ed & Sharon Faltemier

Shirley Geiger
From Hi-Benders, Inc.

James & Dorothy Hahn & Denise Hahn
From the Hahn family

Thelma Hartleroad
From her loving family

Kenneth Hartrich
From his family

Larry & Mary Hartrich
From their children & grandchildren

Teresa Hartrich & Harold Hartrich
From Mike Hartrich family

Carole Helregel (in Memory of)

Bob Helregel (in Honor of)
From Brian, Michele, Stacey & families

Ed & Millie Helregel family
Merece & Gerrie Gowin family
From their family

Art & Alice Keller
From their family

Marion, Viola & Jim Keller
From David & Rhonda Keller

John Lybarger
From Diann, Rob, Traci, Jeremy, Mary & boys

Paul & Rosemary Mullinax, Maureen Mullinax
From their children and grandchildren

Bernard & Marie Ochs
From their family

Lawrence & Clorene Ochs
From Weiss Renovations—Ralph & Carrie,
and Ted & Susie Ochs

Romonna Hunzinger Ochs
From her daughters

Jean Barthelme Regas
From Margo Regas

Norton Reis
From his family

Francis & Mildred Schmidt
From the Schmidt family

Eloise Spitzer
From Mary Jo Martin, Allison Wiley,
& Abigail Wiley

Julia Spitzer Wiltshire
From Julie Wiltshire Coryea, Granddaughter

Shirley G. Yager
From Anna, Angie, G.G., Rikki & Savannah

IN HONOR OF

Those who serve, Past, Present & Future
From D.M. Manufacturing II, Inc.
Artie Hunzinger

From Gary Philippi & Frank Mumford

Don & Christine Litzelman
From Jim, Cheryl, Susan & Tony

Mary Kathryn “Katie” Keller Wait
From the Wait family



Golf Cart sold to Foundation by Bob, Donna, Jason, and Anna Keller
The cart will be used to haul water for the flowers.

Arches in the Bend Installed

The St. Valentine arch is up, framing the St. Valentine Church memorial and bell perfectly. Thanks to D. M. Manufacturing II, INC., and hardworking volunteers for your continued support.

The new arch is a replica of the original that stands in front of the St. Valentine's Cemetery. The original arch has received new paint and looks as good as new.



New arch framing entrance to where St. Valentines church once stood. The original arch and gates still are intact.

Bluegrass in the Bend



The Bend Community Club will be hosting **Bluegrass in the Bend** on the grounds of St. Valentine's Church on July 31 from 3-5. Flat Mountain, a wonderful Bluegrass group will be providing music. Delicious porkburgers and homemade ice cream will be served. Come and enjoy a great afternoon.

Spring at the Foundation House



Successful Mardi Gras Celebration held by Sainte Marie American Legion Auxiliary

The Sainte Marie American Legion Auxiliary Unit 932 held their first Mardi Gras parade on Saturday, February 26th and they were able to raise \$3000.00 for Veterans programs. There were over 25 entries in the parade that slowly made their way down main street to the sounds of French Quarter music on the new PA System. Best "Bar" entry prize was given to SKY Saloon; best business entry award went to ASL Solutions, and the best individual went to Bruce E. Ochs. After the parade, the Legion Auxiliary and the S.A.L provided a DJ for entertainment at the Legion Hall. The Auxiliary served delicious Jambalaya made by Lindell Wenthe, Red Beans & Rice made and furnished by Roy, Sharon and Farrah Tuttle, and Hartrich Meats provided all meat and cooked the Andouille sausages. The Auxiliary is planning on having a and Mardi Gras event next year on Saturday, - February 18, 2023.



ASL Solutions



SKY Saloon



Bruce Ochs

Sainte Marie's Greatest Generations

**Remembering those who have made our memories
sweet and our Village strong**



Jud and Emma Cameron

Mention people that left a huge impression on me from my childhood, and I immediately think of Jud and Emma Cameron. I admired everything I observed about them: their sense of responsibility, their promptness, their easy demeanor, and the way they interacted with each other. Now, before you think that I spent a lot of time talking to them, or as a visitor in their home, I didn't. The image I formed about them was due only to the many times I saw them in church, heard the tolling of the bells, or saw Jud at the river measuring the depths of the muddy brown waters of the Embarras.

Jud and Emma were the caretakers of St. Mary's Church for the largest part of my growing up years. Part of the duties of the job included ringing the bells at 6:00 AM, at noon for the Angelus, and then again at 6:00 PM. The bells would also need rung for mass, when someone died in the church family, and at funerals. Mike Hartrich remembers Jud letting him and Jud's son, Mike, ring the bells occasionally under his supervision. He would warn them to not turn over the bells, as he did not want to climb up and turn them over. There were two bells and to ring them, he shut the big doors and the nave of the church. He grabbed a rope from his far right and one from the far left and made the bells "talk". Today bell ringing is done through automation, but before the mid 1970's, they were always pulled by hand. In my estimation Jud was the promptest person I ever knew! And to my knowledge, the bells never failed to ring. He and Emma were always so respectful and diligent, and that caught my attention. I don't think my intuition was off. Many others shared the same opinion.

Emma was a hometown girl. She was born on July 18, 1910, the second child and first daughter of Joseph Francis Spitzer and Ida Josephine Ochs. She attended local schools and when she was old enough to work, she did as many Sainte Marie girls did, she left Sainte Marie and worked as a housekeeper

for a wealthy family in the city. She met Judson Cameron, a native of Texas, who was working at Abbots Labs in northern Chicago and the rest, as they say, is history! They were married on July 21, 1935, and became the parents of Judson, Carol, Dick, Phil, Mike, and Peg. After the birth of Mike, housing became hard to find. Emma and the children moved to Sainte Marie to live with her widowed father, Joe Spitzer, while Jud remained in the Chicago area working. After two years, Jud moved to Sainte Marie, and the couple began building a home with the help of Walter Shoffstall and Joe Keller, two local contractors. This home on East Mound Street, is where the family remained.

Jud worked as a bartender in both Ted's Tavern and George's Tavern, sold Electrolux vacuum cleaners, and was a census taker to supplement income from his main job, church caretaker. Their youngest child, Peg remembers that even though Jud worked as a bartender, he never drank alcohol. When a customer offered to buy him a drink, he would instead ask for it in candy and bring it home to her! He loved to read Louis L'Amour westerns. Emma would write letters to her sister and friends every Sunday evening. Saturday evenings meant playing canasta with Gerrie and Maurice Gowins. They always had a huge, well-cared for garden and Emma canned everything used the produce to make delicious meals to feed her large family. She also did laundry for the Dominican nuns when they were in Ste. Marie and cooked Father O'Reilly's evening meal for many years. Growing up in the Depression, she learned to never waste anything. When there was leftover piecrust, she would make something they called Semicue Pie. A sister-in-law still brings this favorite to family get togethers.

Semicue Pie

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup of sugar, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ T flour, 1 t of cinnamon, and $\frac{3}{4}$ c of Milnot evaporated milk mix together and pour in an unbaked crust. Bake at 350 for about 30 minutes.

Most of their lives revolved around the church: cleaning, repairing anything that was broken, mowing, and even getting bats out of the belfry!



Jud and Emma and some of their children



Emma and Jud in their kitchen

Emma and Jud left us too soon, though. Emma was only 64 and Jud, 76. They are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. Jud, Jr., and Carol, their two older children, have also passed away. Many thanks to the Camerons for being such positive role models, even though they were probably living as they were raised and wouldn't have done it any other way.



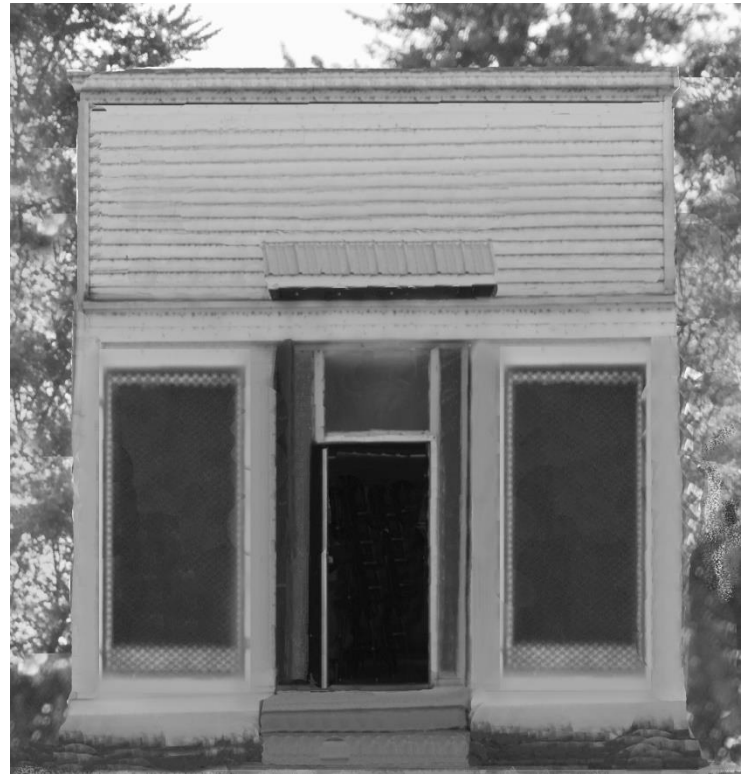
Hats Off!

Millinery Shops in Sainte Marie

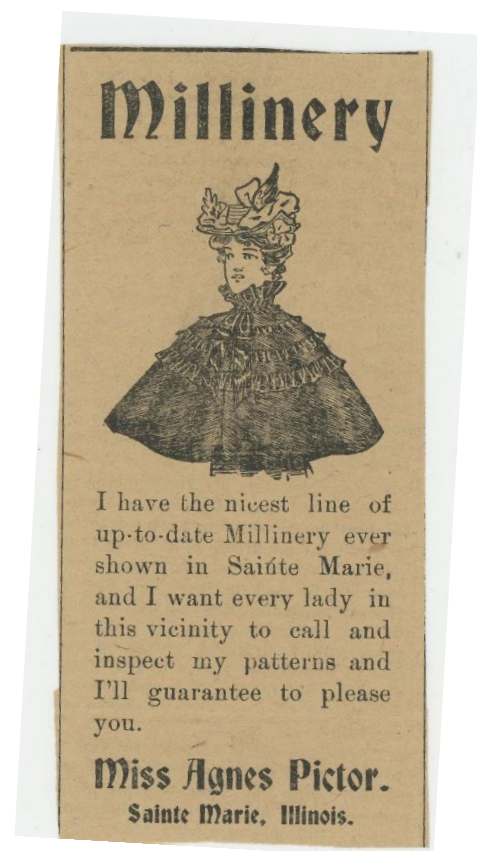
Even though life might not have been very civilized in the first days of Sainte Marie's history, hats were a necessary item for the well-dressed lady. We don't have records before the turn of the 20th century to know where women shopped for their headwear, we do know that Miss Agnes Pictor was the original owner of the millinery shop in Sainte Marie beginning around 1900. The store was located in the building now known as Hi Benders.

She ran the store for fourteen years until her death in 1914. At that time, her sister, Alice, and Miss Ruth Picquet took over ownership of the store. It was known as Pictor and Picquet Millinery. In 1916, Alice left the business, and it became Picquet Millinery Co. It is unsure how long the shop

was open, but a dress shop was opened in the same building by Rose and Mary Spitzer during the 1930s. The Rosemary Dress Shop continued for approximately ten years.



Agnes Pictor Millinery Shop
Later owned by her sister, Alice, and Ruth Picquet
Now Hi Benders Tavern



MILLINERY OPENING

All the ladies of Ste. Marie and vicinity are cordially invited to call and inspect my large line of Ladies, Misses and Children Spring and Summer Hats

All the latest prevailing styles, at prices shure to please.

Pattern Hats from Chicago and St. Louis to make your selection from.

Your patronage solicitive.

MISS AGNES PICTOR

Sainte Marie, Illinois.

Store Opening Ad for Millinery Shop



Ruth Picquet in hat

Miss Agnes Pictor went to St. Louis Wednesday morning to spend several weeks there studying and acquainting herself with the new styles in spring and summer millinery. The styles will be somewhat novel this year, the Turkish-Bulgarian war furnishing most of the new ideas.

21 February 1913

The Latest Effects in Autumn Millinery

are soft and stitched brims, the large sailor, the flop type and the tan idea.

We have a nice selection of these and many other styles suitable for Ladies, Misses and Children.

Will be pleased to have you call and see them.

Pictor-Picquet

Millinery Company
Ste. Marie

18 October 1915

Fall Millinery Styles

We have a special assorted line of Fall Millinery, including the latest and best styles in hats, all personally selected. Up-to-the-minute styles, such as worn by the city ladies, found here. Come in and see what we have to offer.

RUTH PICQUET, Ste. Marie, Ill.

21 September 1917

Fall and Winter Hats

far surpassing anything ever attempted in Ste. Marie before.

The New Golf Hats are the Proper Thing this Season.

A well selected line of Ribbons and other Trimmings at prices that can not be duplicated elsewhere.

MISS AGNES PICTOR,

Ste. Marie, Ill.



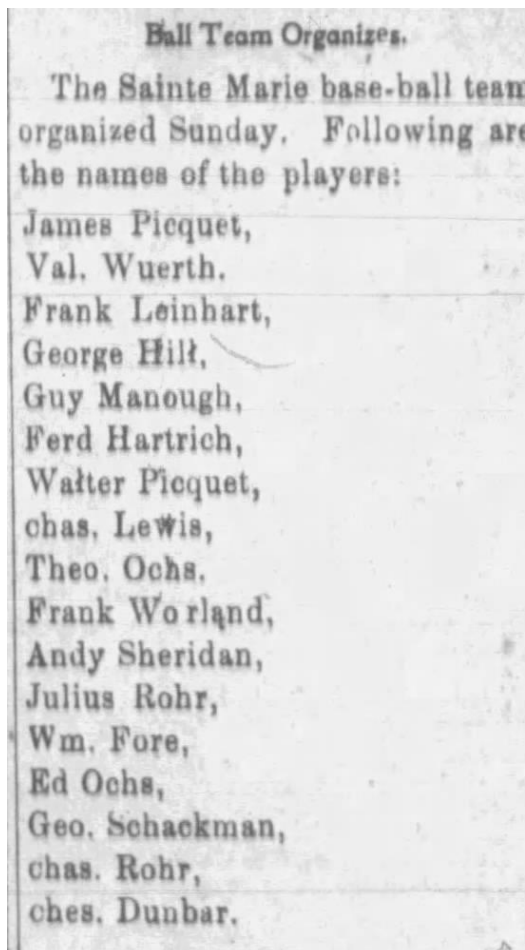
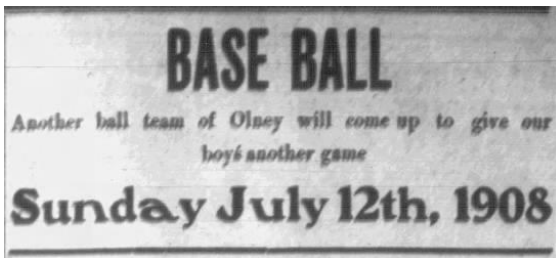
March 27, 1914

The Game Sainte Marie Loved

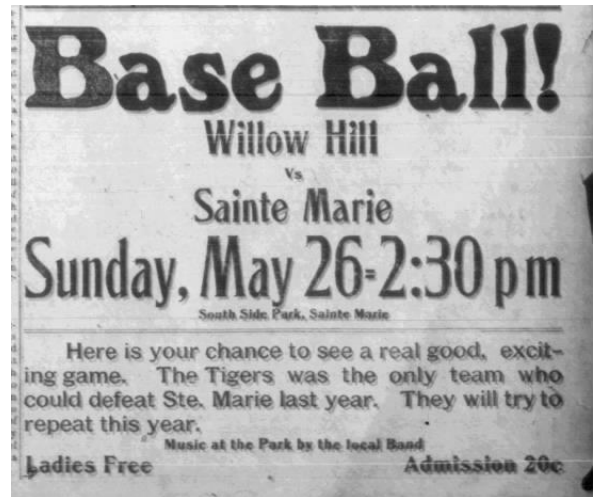
Baseball!

Sainte Marie has had a strong influence from our early settlers. Work hard and play hard! Our Village has always taken that to heart, and no one has played harder at baseball than our youth! Baseball has always been a crowd favorite, too!

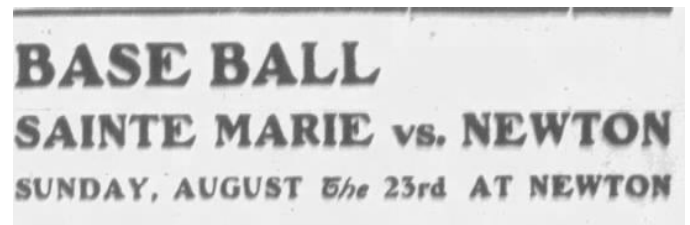
A pickup game of baseball could be found in many cow pastures or empty lots. Picquet Park, which has long been a centerpiece of the town holds the town's only official baseball field. The field has seen countless games and tournaments; both city and school. The water tower that is in the middle of the park was originally painted black so that the defense could see the ball coming off the bat. Baseball is taken seriously!



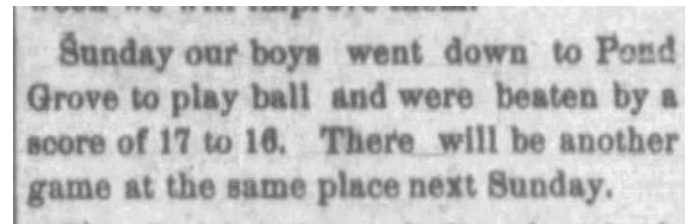
05 June 1908



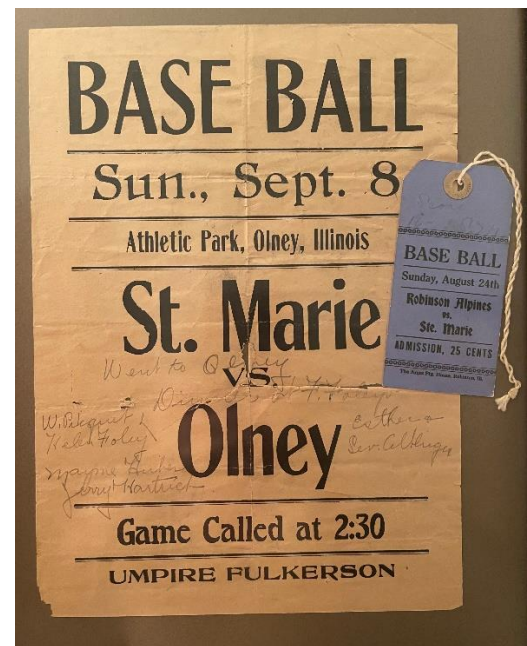
24 May 1912



21 August 1908



11 October 1901





Eugene Hartrich 1948



Sainte Marie 1958 Cub League Team

Front Row: Dave Hartrich, Ed Faltemier, Ed Barthelme, Bob Hawkins (?), Mark Hartrich

Back Row: Bob Bunton, Bill Hartrich, Rick Hartrich, Becky Sheridan, Gene Fehrenbacher, John Schwartz

Girls did not have organized sports, so Becky was a woman before her time! Girls' softball became very popular in Sainte Marie during the 1960s and had several fantastic teams. More to come in a later issue.



Sainte Marie Baseball Club 1949

Top Row: Len Sheridan, Art Keller, Norman Ochs, Albert Hartrich, Eugene Hartrich

Middle Row: Harold Bolander, Dan Helregel

Bottom Row: Gene Zuber, French Weber, Alvie Ochs



Back Row: Jim Cunningham, Neil Ganley, Jim Schwartz, Kenny Hartrich, Gene Zuber Allen Ritz, Bill Ganley

Front Row: Vince Zuber, Bob Helregel, Ron Kirts, Keith Hartrich, John Ganley (Unsure of year)



1911 Ball Team

L to R: Sev Alblinger, Julius Rohr, Alex Leinhart, Val Weurth, Frank Worland, Laurence Polys, Jim Wade, Hugh Worland, Jim Picquet



A little batting practice at the park

Jim Schwartz, pitcher; George Kirts, batting; Bill Stone, umpire

Transitions

Paul Zuber, 73, of Newton died on March 21. Paul was the son of Frederick and Letha Zuber. He is survived by his wife, Linda, and five children.

(Francis) Gene Zuber, 89, of Newton passed away on March 22. He was the son of Frank and Bernadette Zuber. His wife, Bertie, and three children survive.

Bruce Fisher, 76, of Teutopolis passed on March 28. He is survived by wife Sandra Bigard Fisher and a son. A daughter preceded him in death.

Lelia Rennie, 97, of Sainte Marie passed away on April 9. She is survived by six children. Her husband, Ephrem, and son, Larry preceded her in death.

Wanda Ping, 98, formerly of Ste. Marie died on April 29. She is survived by eight children. Her husband, Perry, and son, Jeff preceded her in death.

Don Litzelman, 80, of Sainte Marie, passed away on May 7. He is survived by wife, Christine, and four children.

We Receive Notes

Hi to all,

As you know my mom loved Ste. Marie and passed this love to our family. I adored spending summers with Evelyn & Bud Barthelme (my grandparents) and "helping" at the store. Playing in the cemetery, trips to the river, the Labor Day Picnic, the July 4th chicken dinner, homemade ice cream and the best porkburgers in the world all are near and dear.

Mom bequeathed to the Ste. Marie Foundation this gift upon her death to see fit to use as needed. She was so very very proud of the work her cousin Patty (Reis) started with a handful of others & continue to uphold the traditions that make Ste. Marie special. On behalf of my mother Norma Jean (Jeannie) Barthelme Regas, please accept this gift with sincerest appreciation.

Margo & Jon Regas

We will certainly miss Jean and her wonderful support of the Foundation, but we enjoy hearing from those who appreciate their upbringing, either in the town or through visits to the homes of their parents or grandparents. We are also very thankful for the financial support she has given us from donations at her passing.

The opportunity to give to the Foundation at the passing of a loved one can be arranged by local funeral directors or by contacting a Foundation Board member. A new opportunity to memorialize a loved one will be announced in the future.

New P. A. System at Picquet Park



Remember Jim Geltz making announcements out of the concession stand back in the day, especially during the annual 4th of July Picnic? Well, thanks to the hard work of his son, John Geltz, and donations from the Sainte Marie Farmers Market, the Sainte Marie American Legion Auxiliary, the Cork & Pork Festival and John, we will once again have a pa system that can be used at the park for announcements or to play music. Thank you to everyone who made that possible.

Want to Donate to the Sainte Marie Foundation?

Yes, I want to help the Sainte Marie Foundation. Enclosed is my check for: ☐ \$20 ☐ \$40 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$1000

Other \$

Name

Address

City State Zip Phone (Home)

(Work) (Cell)

E-Mail Address

My donation is in memory of:

(print)

Or in honor of:

(print)

(Names will be included in the Foundation newsletter and/or annual report.) Sainte Marie Foundation, P.O. Box 186, Ste. Marie, IL 62459 www.saintemariefoundation.org

The Sainte Marie Foundation newsletter is published quarterlyish. Send comments to writer/editor Gina Fox gina.fox1@gmail.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.

Mo Donegal, Derby Horse with Sainte Marie Ties



Mo Donegal, one of the elite horses that ran in the 2022 Kentucky Derby, has local ownership!

Glenn and Brenda Picquet of Texas are part owners of the beautiful thoroughbred that has blazed a trail in the racing world this year. Glenn is a descendent of the earliest families in Sainte Marie. He is a great grandson of Xavier and Elizabeth Hartrich Picquet and grandson of Jim and Sylvia Picquet. In the past several years, new connections have been made with family members in the area. Teresa and Mike Hartrich had met with Glenn and Brenda several times and upon one occasion Teresa commented that she wanted to have part ownership in Glenn's racing stock. Glenn gave Teresa her wish. For \$8.... A dollar for each horse he had ownership in, Teresa became part owner. She once commented that she owned the dirt on the bottom of the horses' hooves! Upon her passing in September of 2021, Glenn transferred Teresa's ownership to her two granddaughters, Elise Wright and Megan Hartrich. Mike, his daughter Michelle, and granddaughters Elise and Megan attended the Kentucky Oaks, the race for fillies at Churchill Downs held the evening before the Derby.



Elise and Megan wearing their grandmother's fascinator and jewelry

Glenn explained that he and Brenda grew up in south Texas next to the King Ranch, home of the Triple Crown winner, Assault. As a youngster, he often watched the cowboys of the ranch working with cattle. Other than this, neither he or Brenda had background with horses. They joined Donegal Racing, purchasers of Derby hopefuls, during 2020. The Picquets wanted the opportunity to experience some of the best racetracks in the country and have a stake in the races. Mo has certainly provided just that and a lot of excitement and fun for family and friends.

Mo, purchased at that 2020 sale, was assigned to Hall of Fame trainer, Todd Pletcher, and went to New York last summer to officially begin racing. He did very well, winning his second race as a two-year-old at Belmont Race Park and won the Remsen and Wood Memorial, prestigious Kentucky Derby qualifying races. In both races he came from behind to win at the wire.

Considered one of the favorites at the Derby, he finished a respectable, but disappointing fifth at the Derby. Mo will have another opportunity to show what he is made of at the June 11 Belmont Stakes. This is a longer track; one of Mo's specialties. He is a favorite here!

Mo is a member of the fifth crop of colts they have owned through Donegal and the fourth horse to race in the Derby since Donegal's inception thirteen years ago. The two-year-old group is going to be trained this summer to get a taste for racing, and the babies are in thoroughbred kindergarten in South Carolina.

Good luck Mo Donegal in the Belmont Stakes!



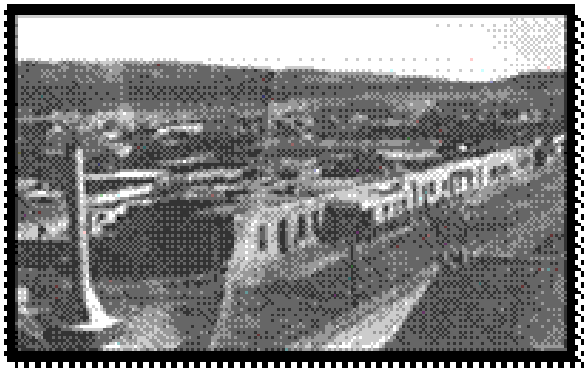
Sleepy Mo



Lobsters, Jellyfish, and Pelicans!

Following is the third installment of the journal of Sister Mary John Berchmans, daughter of Theodore and Francesca Chable Hartrich, as she travels from St. Louis to Tucson, AZ. She and three other Sisters were on their way to help build up the Church in the sparsely populated area of the Arizona Territory. The journal covers the dates of April 17, 1876, to June 1, 1876. To put it in perspective, the first Americans entered the area in 1854 after the Gadsden Purchase. American women were not in the area until 1872.

The journal is typed as written.



Tucson in 1880

On the 11th the first Post we reached was a small town on Magdalena Bay on the west coast of lower Cal. The town consisted of about seven or eight houses, including the custom house. The only business carried on is the manufacturing of a pink dye from sea moss. The 12th we arrived at Cape St. Lucas, where we stopped about an hour; this also was a small village of only three houses. There was some green to be seen, cocoanut trees and other tropical fruits. The weather was not as warm as we expected to find it. We were then in the torrid zone. You will not be surprised when I tell you that we were obligated to wear our shawls when passing the Cape, the wind was so strong and cool. It was there they brought six head of cattle on board; the vessel being about a mile from shore, about six men went ashore in a small canoe. The Mexicans drove the cattle in the water as far as the boat, then tied three on each side by the horns. The poor things looked as though they were almost drowned; then they were hoisted up on deck by having a rope tied round the head. We left the same evening for Mazatlán on the coast of Mexico. We arrived there on Monday the 14th A.M. This was quite a large place although we could see but a portion of it from the steamer. At Mazatlán they were having their yearly feast, which lasts from 1st of May til the 15th. They have a great time of it: the principal amusements consist in gamboling and dancing. It is a great practice among Mexican ladies and even children to gambol. It is very amusing to see

the ladies wear heavy winter shawls on their heads instead of sun bonnets or hats. The men, that is the poorer class, wear their shirts over the pants. I suppose they find it much cooler. At Mazatlán the number of passengers was increased; the Governor's lady and family were of the number and remained with us as far as La Paz. The Governor's lady is very anxious to have the Sisters go there. She promised to do all in her power in assisting the Sisters if they go there. She did not speak a word of English, nothing but Spanish. On our way up the Gulf, we saw a great number of fishes. The sword fish, it had a king of sword projecting above its mouth, porpoises, flying fishes, seals, sharks, and two whales. The seals, there were quite a number of them together, it was very amusing to see them jump one after another out of the water. In Magdalena Bay we saw a great quantity of lobsters, The sand appeared red from the great number of red ones thrown on the beach by the tide. Jelly fish – they were the strangest looking things I ever saw; in size they looked like a ground turtle; the color, a light blue; round the neck it had a dark ring with an edging of white spots; these we only saw in the torrid zone. We also saw a great number of pelicans on and near the coast of Mexico. Wednesday morning the 16th we arrived in La Paz in lower Cal. It is the prettiest of the Mexican ports. It is situated in such a manner that you have a view of the whole town from the bay; the houses are all one story in height with flat roofs; there are very few brick buildings to be seen; they are all made of mud but the walls nicely white-washed. The streets are shaded with different kinds of trees. It is very warm during the day; at noon the people all go to rest; the town at that hour is quiet; almost as night. In this part of the country the people nearly all sleep out doors at night, the heat is so intense. Friday morning the 18th we reached Guaymas on the coast of Mexico. This little port is entirely surrounded by high mountains, perfectly barren, only covered with sand and cactuses, which bear a red fruit which is good to eat. All the mountains are like that in Lower Cal, and Arizona. The heat is intense; it never or seldom rains. They are obliged to bring the water they use from the mountains. They bring it down on the back of mules. I think if I were to stay there I would dry up to nothing. It was there a gentleman on board showed us a piece of solid gold valued at \$4000. After sundown the same day we had a pretty strong wind which lasted only a little while; otherwise, our trip was very pleasant. We could not have wished it better.

St. Marie or Ste. Marie?

Incorporation papers for the village were formally filed on April 19, 1873, after having been approved at the February election. Official name at that time was St. Marie. At the request of the first French settlers, the name was changed to Ste. Marie on June 20, 1892. Surveying and platting began in 1894 by A. Compton and Joseph Schifferstein.

Lincoln Letter – Practical Joke or the Real Thing?

The founding fathers of Sainte Marie worked very hard to build a settlement where people could live productive, fruitful lives and provide for their families.

It was not all work, though. They took time to play!

A popular form of entertainment in the early days of the village was the Ste. Marie Brass Band and the St. Cecilia's Society. St. Cecilia was the patron saint of music. Attendance at the St. Cecilia's Day dinner, hosted by the Brass Band and the Society, was one not to be missed!

Francis Merceret, one of the early Frenchmen in the newly established colony and married to a Picquet sister, Amelie, was the secretary for both organizations. He kept meticulous records and we can today see what members pledged to bring to the annual dinner for the community.

Francis Merceret: Turkey and ducks; four bottles wine

Dr. James Picquet: Cakes, pies, and apples; three bottles wine

Joseph Picquet: 2 lb loaf sugar; two bottles brandy

Xavier Picquet: Chicken salad; three bottles wine

Joseph Schifferstein: Two bushels vegetables and apples; two bottles of brandy

Theo Schifferstein: Venison or equivalent; three bottles wine and two pies

Leon Willien: Five bottles of wine

Nat Laugel: Six lbs. almonds and wine

There were many other donations of cash and wine from members of the Society.

The St. Louis Globe Democrat of January 29, 1929, reported, "It was the thing to belong to the musical societies whether one was musical or not. It was the hallmark of polite life in Ste. Marie."

And now that the background of the organizations has been set, on to our story.

A letter from the Ste. Marie Brass Band was supposedly written to the newly elected President, Abraham Lincoln, inviting him to the November 22nd St. Cecilia's celebration. A return letter declining the invitation reads:

I have received your very kind and flattering invitation to be present at the annual dinner given by your Societies on the 22nd inst., being St. Cecilia's Day, the patron saint of music. It would have given me much pleasure to be with you on that day, but I am forced by circumstances to decline the honor. I have often heard of Ste. Marie and its inhabitants & always felt a strong desire to make the acquaintance not only of the inhabitants but more particularly that of the members of both your societies whom (if I am not misinformed) devote a good portion of their leisure in receiving instructions in vocal and

instrumental from Dr. His name has escaped me but as I understand he is a steadfast and & energetic Republican. I would advise you all to pay due attention to his lessons. Ere I would close this hasty epistle I would beg to remind you that music is a very useful art. Many persons are now busy to ascertain what your next delighted in during his younger days. I will tell you confidentially...that my greatest pleasure when taking a rest after splitting rails, was to play a solo on the Jews Harp.

Now keep this to yourselves & believe me.

Very truly yr. friend,

Abraham Lincoln

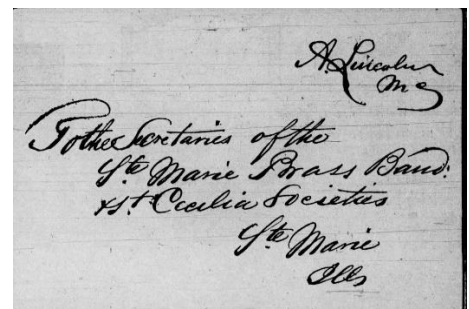
N.B., I have heard that "secession" in one of your societies had been practical. Let ME implore you to stick to the letter of your constitutions.

(N. B. - Nota Bene – note it well- the most important part of the letter)

Note: The Dr. mentioned above would have been Dr. James Picquet, President of the Brass Band, and a noted physician in the area.

Miss Marie Merceret, daughter of Francis and Amelie Picquet Merceret, inherited the letter from her father and had kept it in a safe deposit box. Upon her death, she bequeathed the letter to her niece, Aimee J. Meckel, a former Ste. Marie resident who resided in Olney at the time of her death. A November 14, 1960, article in the Newton Press-Mentor retold the story about the letter that few seemed to know of. At that date, the Meckel estate was being settled and the letter was kept in the possession of former Judge Milo D. Yelvington, executor of the estate. The whereabouts of the letter are currently unknown.

Why the question of the letter's authenticity? Dr. James Picquet was known to have a big personality and most likely loved a practical joke. Was this a prank he played on the members of the band? The letter specifically mentions the good Doctor and what a fine Republican, gentleman, and instructor he is. Why such a positive mention of Dr. Picquet? Hmmm...was he pulling the wool over the eyes of others? If so, it has been a been one of the longest lasting jokes around! Pictures of the letter and envelope taken from the article in the St. Louis Globe Democrat are shown below.



Spangford Ill. Nov. 16. 1862

To the Secretaries of the St. Marie Mass Band &
St. Cecilia Society

Gentlemen

I have received your very kind & flattering invitation to be present at the annual dinner given by your societies on the 22nd. But - being St. Cecilia's Day: the patron St. of music

It would have given me much pleasure to be with you on that day, but I am forced by circumstances to decline the honor -

I have often heard of St. Marie & its inhabitants & always felt a strong desire to make the acquaintance not only of the inhabitants but more particularly ^{that} the members of both your societies whom (if I am not misinformed) devote a good portion of their leisure in receiving instructions in vocal & instrumental music from Dr. his name has escaped me but as I understand he is a steadfast & energetic Republican, I would advise you all to pay due attention to his lessons -

Ever I would close this hasty Epistle I would beg to remind you that Music is a very useful art - Many persons are now busy to ascertain what your next

President delighted in during his younger days? I will here tell you Confidentially.... that my greatest pleasure when taking a rest after splitting rails, was to play a solo on the Jews Harp -

Now keep this to yourselves

Believe me
Very truly Yr friend
Abraham Lincoln

M.B.

I have heard that 'Secession' is one of your societies had been practiced. Let me implore you to adhere strictly to the letter of your constitutions -

A.L.

8th
Annual

CORK & PORK Festival

Sainte Marie, IL

Saturday July 9, 2022 at Picquet Park

\$10 COVER CHARGE PER PERSON FOR FESTIVAL & CONCERT

Limited Wine Tastings - Pork - Live Music - Beer Garden - Souvenirs

STARTS AT 5:00 PM

MATT POSS BAND CONCERT
6 - 10 P.M.

You MUST be 21 to enter

No Children Please

Made Possible By All Our Sponsors and

ILLINOIS South TOURISM enjoy **illinois**

MUST BE 21 - HAVE ID - NO COOLERS PLEASE - EVERYONE PAYS \$10 EA

All profits go to local Community Organizations - Over \$151,000.00 given back to date!

REGISTRATION FROM
9-10 AM
@Picquet Park
by the water tower
\$10 per person
LEAVES AT 10 AM
Order T-Shirts Online Only
from T-Graphics
corkandporkjeep2022.itemorder.com

CORK & PORK JEEP RUN
in Memory of John Lybarger
SATURDAY, JULY 9TH
SAINTE MARIE, IL

JEEP RUN SPONSORS

STOPS - IN ORDER

MVP - MUDDY SALOON - BJ'S SALOON
SKY SALOON - THE HILL