



Sainte Marie Foundation News

Celebrating our special hometown December 2022

Volume 15 Issue 3



**Sainte Marie Grade School
8th Grade Class of 1963
59th Class Reunion
September 25, 2022**

Row 1: Linda Derler Latimer, Peg Helregel Claxton, Dianne Keller Purcell
Row 2: Annette Hahn Kirts, Carol Swisher Connor, Bonnie Hunzinger Petty
Row 3: Janice Moran Kinder, Diann Ochs Lybarger, Janet Kocher Kistner
Row 4: Ann Fisher Bare, Janet Faltemier Sitewich, Marilyn Schmidt Bahney, Norman Kocher, Carol Rennie Zuber, Kay Barthelme James
Row 5: Dave Hartrich, Gene Ochs, Frank Spannagel
Not in Attendance: Ed Barthelme, Julia Huff Martin, Jim Logan
Deceased classmates: Paul Harris, Joyce Litzelman, Phyllis Frauli Rudolphi, Greg Ochs, Rose Mary Blank Wilkinson, Charlene Wright

The 8th grade class of the 1963 Sainte Marie grade school met at the Foundation house on Friday, September 23. They also hosted 72 members and guests from their high school class, (1967), at Irene's Winery from 2-4 that afternoon. On Saturday, September 24, activities were held at St. Mary's Parish Hall. The Sainte Marie graduates decorated, made nametags, and provided delicious hors d'ouvres. The meal was catered by Brandon Scott with pie and ice cream from Niemerg's. 110 class members and their guests enjoyed 60's music and a Jeopardy style game with questions covering music, the local area, and their high school days. Sounds like a lot of fun!

Farmhouse Creations Donates Sign

Brad and Sherry Slankard of Farmhouse Designs donated a beautiful metal cutout sign for the Foundation House. The sign featuring a fleur de lis and the establishment date of the Village adds a nice touch to our entrance. Thank you!



A Vintage Sainte Marie Christmas Exhibit to Close

The Sainte Marie Vintage Christmas exhibit is officially closed, but don't worry – a new display is in the works! The new exhibit will focus on the area's celebrations throughout the years; St. Mary's and the Bend picnics, the 1962, 1987, and 2012 Centennials, 4th of July, and the Jasper County Bicentennial in 1976.

Anyone who has memorabilia; dresses, pictures, 1962 souvenirs, etc. they would be willing to loan to the Foundation for this exhibit, contact Mike Hartrich, Donna M. Keller, or Sharon Tuttle on Messenger. It is hoped to have the two-year exhibit ready for viewing sometime in the Spring of 2023. Suggestions for a name for this next exhibit are being sought!

Information about picking up items from the Christmas display that were on loan will be on the Foundation Facebook page. If you were unable to view the Christmas exhibit, Jason Warfel, the Foundation's official IT person, made a great video of the display. Click on the link below.

<https://youtu.be/wwLVqD3Znoc>



SAVE THE DATE

BEND COMMUNITY CLUB
Valentine's Day Breakfast

Sunday February 12th

♥♥♥♥♥
8 am - noon



Gift Basket Donated in Honor of Teresa Hartrich

A gift basket was recently donated to the Jasper County Cancer Fund for their recent Basket Bingo. The basket was in memory of Teresa Hartrich. The event was very successful raising over \$8000 to be used towards expenses of Jasper County cancer patients.



Let the Good Times Roll Part 2!

On Saturday, February 18, 2023, the Sainte Marie American Legion Auxiliary Unit 932 will be holding their big fundraiser of the year, Mardi Gras 2023!

The Auxiliary is very pleased to bring Dennis Stroughmatt and the Creole Stomp who will be playing from 6-9 pm. Dennis is a critically acclaimed Creole, Cajun and Western Swing fiddler and accordionist. He is fluent in Illinois-Missouri Creole French and by representing his "Illinois Country French" heritage, he not only entertains, but educates. The band will be paid through a grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency with the balance being paid by the First National Bank in Olney. The Sainte Marie Foundation applied for the grant. There will be a mini-Mardi Gras parade starting at 4:30 pm. Beginning at 5 pm, the Town Talk Restaurant & Bar will be serving Cajun cuisine until the food runs out. You can find out more information about this event on *Sainte Marie Mardi Gras, Sainte Marie, Illinois*, or the *Sainte Marie American Legion Auxiliary Unit 932* Facebook pages.

Sainte Marie's Newest Resident!



For almost 73 years, **Katherine Evelyn Burgund Yager** held the title of being the last baby born at home in Sainte Marie. **Katherine** was born in her home in Sainte Marie on October 23, 1948, to **Peter V. and Stella Evelyn Smith Burgund**.

Well, now there's a new girl in the village...**Vivian Kay Barthelme** was born in her home in Sainte Marie on October 16, 2022, at 6:30 am. She weighed in at 7 pounds and was 20 inches long. Her parents are **Dylan and Clara (Russell) Barthelme**. Vivian has some impressive Sainte Marie roots. She is the granddaughter of **Chad and Melinda (Bigard) Barthelme**, great granddaughter of **Bob and Carolyn (Dallmier) Barthelme**, great-great granddaughter of **Joe and Marge (Strutner) Barthelme** and **George and Hilda Dallmier** and the great-great-great granddaughter of **Ed and Nora Barthelme**. Congratulations to the **Barthelme** family and thank you **Katherine Evelyn Burgund Yager** for proudly holding the title for 74 days shy of 74 years!

Sainte Marie Souvenirs Make Great Christmas Presents



Another Successful

Cork and Pork Festival in the Books

The rains stayed away this year, and a very successful 8th annual Cork and Pork Festival came to a close on Saturday, July 9. Attendees enjoyed flavorful area wines, delicious pork options, and the great music of Matt Poss and Band. The Cork and Pork Committee was able to award proceeds to many Jasper County groups. A win-win for everyone!



CORK PORK DONATIONS GIVEN IN 2022

JASPER COUNTY BOYS AND GIRLS PARK - FOR LIGHTS	\$ 8,000.00
BLESSINGS IN A BACKPACK	\$ 4,000.00
SAINTE MARIE FOUNDATION	\$ 3,000.00
JASPER COUNTY CANCER FUND	\$ 2,000.00
NEWTON FAMILY LIFE CENTER & SILK PURSE	\$ 2,000.00
EAGLE PRIDE (Football Moms) - meals for FB players, decorations for stadium & town	\$ 2,000.00
JASPER COUNTY HOMEFRONT	\$ 2,000.00
JASPER COUNTY MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION	\$ 1,000.00
SHOP WITH A COP	\$ 1,000.00
JASPER COUNTY HONEY DO MINISTRIES	\$ 1,000.00
HCE TOYS FOR KIDS	\$ 1,000.00
JASPER COUNTY JUNIOR HIGH - TO HELP REPLACE TUBA	\$ 1,000.00
NCHS CHORAL & MUSICAL DEPT. - TO HELP REPLACE SPOTLIGHTS	\$ 1,000.00
NEWTON MARCHING EAGLES - TO HELP WITH NEW SOUND SYSTEM FOR FIELD	\$ 1,000.00
NCHS STUDENT COUNCIL - FOR DISTRICT AND STATE CONVENTIONS	\$ 1,000.00
JASPER COUNTY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION - SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FUTURE TEACHERS	\$ 1,000.00
LIGHT OLD MILL BRIDGE PROJECT - TO HELP WITH FIXING DAMAGE FROM VANDALISM	\$ 1,000.00
NCHS YEARBOOK - 2ND CAMERA & LENS IN MEMORY OF MRS. LORETTA WIMAN	\$ 1,000.00
WHOVILLE EVENT IN SAINTE MARIE	\$ 1,000.00
NEWTON JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB (TOWARDS NEW CONCESSION STAND)	\$ 1,000.00
SAINTE MARIE HELPFUL LITTLE HANDS 4-H CLUB - HELP WITH CLEANUP	\$ 500.00
TEAM OF MERCY	\$ 500.00
TOTAL OF DONATIONS FOR 2022	\$ 37,000.00

Transitions

George Dallmier 90, September 3, 1931 – June 7, 2022

George was born and raised west of Sainte Marie. He was the son of Edwin and Julia Kerner Dallmier. He was preceded in death by his wife Hilda Rennie Dallmier and daughter, Margaret Townsend. His children Carolyn (Bob) Barthelme, George, Jr. (Michelle), Judy (Paul) Goeble, and Sylvan (Kimberly) survive. He also leaves behind son-in-law, Andrew Townsend, 19 grandchildren, and many great and great-great grandchildren.

Lucie Hunzinger Hartrich 97, January 21, 1925 – August 6, 2022

Lucie was born to Arthur and Ellen Bolander Hunzinger. She moved to Sainte Marie as a small girl and lived there the rest of her long life. Her husband, Harold, daughter-in-law, Teresa, and grandchildren, Scott and Emily preceded her in death. She is survived by children Mike, Mark (Janeth), Tony (Janet), and Amy (Darren), twelve grandchildren, and 19 great-grandchildren.

Michael Maginn, 62, September 23, 1959 – August 17, 2022

Mike was born and raised in rural Sainte Marie. He was the son of Donald and Marilyn Ochs Maginn. His brother, Kevin, survives.

Linda Reis, 75, August 10, 1947 – August 28, 2022

Linda married Ed Reis in 1974 and he survives. She also leaves behind children Christopher (Lora Limbert), Timothy (Erin), and Angela (Clark) Myers, 11 grandchildren, brothers-in-law Bob Helregel, Tony Reis, and sisters-in-law Glenda Schwartz and Anita Steber.

Samuel R. Zuber, 91, June 19, 1931 – December 12, 2022

Sam was born in Fox Township to Frank and Bernadette Zuber. He was the fourth of eight children and the oldest son. They moved to house south of Sainte Marie when he was three and lived there the rest of his life.

He is survived by children Cari (Carl) Phillips, Greg (Theresa) Zuber, Libby Riggs, Edie Hice, and Amanda (Steve) Huber. He also is survived by three exchange students he considered family, 18 grandchildren, and 23 great-grandchildren.

Sam was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Linda; son, Chris; and three grandchildren.



Mary Kathryn (Keller) Wait, a resident of Seal Beach, California, died in October at the age of 101 years. Mary Kathryn Keller was born in 1921, the ninth of ten children of James and Louise Keller, who lived and farmed outside the small southern Illinois village of Ste. Marie.

Katie attended school in Ste. Marie and in Newton, Illinois.

She graduated from St. John's Hospital School of Nursing in Springfield, Illinois. She married William A. Wait in September 1944. Katie and Bill lived in Decatur until they relocated to Seal Beach in 1997. They were married for 69 years.

Katie is survived by four children, nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Katie so loved growing up in Sainte Marie. The Sainte Marie Foundation is listed as one of the memorials. She was the last living child of James and Louis Huber Keller. Her siblings were Bertha Keller Geiger, Beatrice Keller Myers, Bernice Keller, Frank Keller, Marion Keller, Elaine Keller Hanson, Louise Keller Wells, Herman Keller, and Arthur Keller.

Traveling in an Unfamiliar Land



St. Mary's Hospital, Tucson, AZ ca. 1880
Hospital started by the
Sisters of St. Joseph of Cardonelet, St. Louis, MO

Editor's note: Following is the fourth of five installments of the journal of Sr. John Berchman describing her journey to Tucson, Arizona. She and three other sisters from St. Louis made the trip in 1876 to establish missions in the Southwest. She was the daughter of Ste. Marie pioneers, Theodore and Frances Hartrich. Typed as written.

The sisters came to a place very unlike what they had left in St. Louis; there were no wooden floors, sidewalks, or electricity.

Sunday morning May the 20th we arrived at the mouth of the Colorado River where the other boat was waiting for us. The river steamer is so much smaller that the boats on the Mississippi river. The Colorado River is so shallow even when the river is overflowing. In some places the bank not any higher than two or three feet; the water is very muddy. We started up the river Monday morning May 22; the boat stopped every evening in order to avoid the danger of striking sand bars. We four Sisters and Dr. Lightburn from St. Louis were the only passengers on board. We saw a great number of Indians along the river; they wear very little clothing; and all they have to cover them is a little piece of calico or other material about $\frac{1}{2}$ of yd in width; some of the men wear a shirt and no pants; others have only a coat on. Some of the children go without anything on them. Wednesday the 24th at 10 o'clock A.M., we arrived in Ft. Yuma. The Sisters had an ambulance waiting for us. They were so glad to see us you may be sure, we were too.

I must give you description of the convent in Yuma. It is a mud house, one story high with twelve rooms including the chapel. Sometimes they lay a foundation of rocks about one or two ft high, then the balance of the wall is built of adobes or mud bricks; these are made of mud and straw dried in the sun. The general size is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ft in length 1 ft in width, $\frac{1}{2}$ ft in thickness: the walls are about 2 ft thick; the ceiling or roof is made of logs; and those who can afford it have joists. Over these are placed small round sticks with straw over them; then a thick layer of mud forms the roof and ceiling. If you wish to have a better idea, just look at a hay loft. Of course, some are not as bad as that. The floors are not of boards; very few have them. The ground is very hard; some put a thin layer of coarse sand to prevent mud when the

floors are watered, which is done once or twice a day to make it cool and keep down the dust which is very plentiful here. Lumber is so scarce; it is hard enough to get boards to make tables and benches, much less to make wooden floors. You have no idea how cool these houses are. If it were not for these beautiful adobe houses, I think people would melt with the heat, especially in Yuma. During the day, the heat is intense; you could almost imagine yourself in a bake oven. The dust and sand in the street is no less than 3 inches deep. They have frequent high winds; then it is the time to look out for your eyes, nose, and mouth, if you don't want to have them filled with the stuff. In town and surrounding country, there's nothing green, except along the bank of the river. There are plenty of snakes and lizards in this part of the country. One day I was sitting on the bed swing when suddenly I felt something pulling my habit; turning my head to see what it was, to my great fright, I saw a lizard crawling on my lap. You may be sure I sent him flying.

Tuesday 29th, we started for Tucson in a private conveyance. It took us full ten days; the distance is nearly 300 miles from Yuma to Tucson; the road is very good, only in some places, it was sandy and rocky and very dusty. The only houses on the way are the stations; and these are generally twenty, thirty, forty miles apart. At each of them, we were obliged to fill our canteens with fresh water. The first night we camped out, we will never forget. Only the four of us and the driver, it was in the middle of the road, surrounded by brush and high grass. Sister M. Rose and I took our blankets and pillows and spread them in front of the carriage. I slept very little that night. The least noise I heard, I thought it was a snake or some other wild animal coming to devour us. I was so glad when day came. The second night, we stopped at a place called teamsters' camp; there were no houses, only a few wagons, conveying goods to Tucson. We had a little more courage, for we were not all alone. We insisted that Mother and Sr. Eutichiana should sleep in the carriage; they did not take up much room. St. M. Rose and I, we were too large, we would have pushed the other two out, if we got in. One night it was very windy; we were thinking how we would manage to keep the dust from blowing in our mouths and noses. Of course, there was no danger of it getting in our eyes for we intended to have a good sleep that night. We concluded we would fix our beds one at each side of the wagon near the wheels; then we managed to tie an umbrella to the wheels in such a way as to keep the dust from blowing off us. Thursday night we had quite a nice place; there was nice green grass. We all slept out that night. I wish you could have seen us! Each one with her blanket and pillow fixing her bed. We often regretted that our pillows were not stuffed more, whenever we could not get a little straw or grass. I had to put our satchel under it to make it higher. The nights were very cool; sometimes we would be shaking with the cold; one night it was so cold that Sister had to hang an old coffee sack in front of the carriage to keep them warm. Nearly every night Mother would give

me her blanket. I would sleep under the two and just feel comfortable.

Now I must describe our nice table and tablecloth. We had a few snacks: then we would spread a large napkin over that. Then our beautiful dishes consisting of tin plates and tin cups. One would wash the dishes; another would put them away and the other would look for wood to make the fire. Sr. M. Rose would cook our meals. I almost forgot to tell you the best part of our journey. The driver was Mexican and of course could understand but a few words in English; but as luck happened, we had a little translator containing English and Spanish. So, whenever we wanted to tell him anything or ask a question, we would have to look for the words first in the book; then after all, he could not understand what we meant. So, we would be obliged to wait until we would get to the next station, where there was always someone who spoke both English and Spanish. We always found the people on our way very kind and obliging much more to that in the states. The people generally are very poor, but still are as happy as if they owned great possessions. I thought I would see some fine flowers in Arizona, but I saw none except large cactuses; the stocks were so high that it was impossible to see the flowers unless a person knocked some of the blossoms down with a stone. I succeeded in throwing some down; the stock of plant is as sound and large in circumference as a good-sized stovepipe, in height about 10 or 20 ft, perfectly straight, and plenty of stickers. The flower is beautiful; it is similar to the tube rose, only three times its size. I bought some cuttings of different kinds of times its size. I brought some cuttings of different kinds of flowers from San Francisco in a small box, but only a few of them survived the journey. They died from the effects of sea-sickness I suppose. I only brought them as far as Yuma; there I willed them to Sr. Monica. I am glad I did. I think it is bad enough to have to buy the water to drink much less to water the flowers.

**STILL TIME TO
FORWARD GIFTS**

War Department Will Transport
Christmas Packages for
Boys in France.

LAST SAILING DATE DEC. 5

Sainte Marie Tribune November 30, 1917

Entertainments

Tuesday, December 25
Christmas Entertainment by the Children
Santa Claus will distribute Gifts. Begins at 8 o'clock

Thursday, Dec. 27th
Card Party and Box Social
Progressive Euchre Playing will begin at 8 o'clock p. m.
The Auctioning of the Boxes Follows

Monday, December 31
The Comedy-Drama "Oak Farm"
Presented by the Dramatic Club. Requires
2 1-2 hours to Present. Begins at 8:15

Sainte Marie Tribune
December 21, 1917



Here are Christmas Gifts for the Home

Even in trying times like these the comfort of the home should not in the least be neglected. The spirit of Christmas is a beneficent inspiration to the fireside—there at least, peace and good cheer should reign, for in the home originate those ideals that sustain the nation.

Visit our store for your selection of Christmas presents. We have something suitable for anyone. Prepare early for your gift selection.

Leinhart & Company
Sainte Marie, Illinois

Sainte Marie Tribune December 21, 1917



Sweet Memories of Sainte Marie Christmas Programs

Remember the excitement that built up to the school's annual Sainte Marie Christmas Programs? During the 1960s and 70s, each class had a special part in the overall program directed by the legendary Mrs. Marilyn Maginn. She worked tirelessly ensuring each class had memorized their parts and songs. The evening of the program, we arrived dressed in our very best, freshly-scrubbed faces, and the girls with curls that weren't there earlier in the day. We were all giggly and filled with anxious energy. Mrs. Maginn surely collapsed after what appeared to be a hot mess earlier in the day turned into another of her memorable productions.

Santa was the star of the show after all was over and gave each of us a paper bag filled with a large navel orange, peanuts, and a yucky chocolate crème-filled candy. The American Legion provided the treats, I believe. Driving throughout town, viewing the beautiful lights and displays was a tradition our family followed for many years after the program. What a magical time!



Foundation Awarded Grants

Many thanks to the **Illinois Tourism Arts Council** and the **Mary Heath Foundation** for grants recently awarded to the **Sainte Marie Foundation**. Funds from the **Illinois Arts Council Agency** are to be used for covering some of the costs of **Dennis Stroughmatt and the Creole Stomp**, the band that will be playing at the Sainte Marie Legion Auxiliary Mardi Gras Celebration to be held in February.

Money from the **Mary Heath Foundation** will be used to purchase a computer that will be used to produce the **Sainte Marie Foundation Newsletter**.

Thank you to both for providing funds to help our Foundation!

Whoville

2nd Annual Celebration Village Explodes with Christmas Cheer

The Village of Sainte Marie was abuzz with the Spirit of Christmas on Saturday, November 26. The town was filled with people wanting to experience all that the Sainte Marie Community Club had to offer. Many were dressed as characters from Whoville adding to the festive atmosphere! From ice skating, face-painting, cotton candy, and freshly popped corn to wagon rides and photo ops there was something for everyone! A 5K run was sponsored by Saved by Grace Animal Rescue. The sounds of excited children dragging parents to the next fun event was proof that the event was a huge success!

The businesses in the area reported increased traffic in their stores that day. A great day for everyone!

Photo credits to **April Goss Photography** unless noted.









Sarah Volk Egleston photo



The Farmers Market at Whoville

The Sainte Marie Farmers Market ended the 2022 season with a Christmas Market held at the Foundation House. More than 325 people came through the house and were able to view the last day of the Sainte Marie Vintage Christmas exhibit and the wares of the various vendors who participated in the Market.



Mary Lybarger generously raffled this hand painted window with \$153 going to the Sainte Marie Foundation. Lotte Houser was the lucky winner! Thank you, Mary!





Sainte Marie Farmers Market Wraps up Season

The Sainte Marie Farmers Market 2022 ended in a grand way with the Christmas Market at the Foundation House and Museum on November 26. This was held in conjunction with the Sainte Marie Community Club's 2nd annual Whoville event. Over 325 people, many for the first time, came through to enjoy the final showing of A Sainte Marie Vintage Christmas exhibit. Exposing more people to the treasures of the house and museum was the goal of the Foundation. The village was alive with smiling faces, young and old alike, enjoying the sights, sounds, and smells of the day. The 2023 Sainte Marie Farmers Market season will start on Saturday, June 3, 2023. In a change from the past, the Farmers Market will be held on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, **NOT** every Saturday as in the past. The market will be running from June through September from 8 am to 12pm. More information will be on the *Sainte Marie Farmers Market* Facebook Page.

Coming Entertainments

During the holidays, from December 25th to January 1st. various amusements are offered to the public, at the Dramatic hall.

The first number, Tuesday, December 25th, will be a Christmas entertainment given by the girls and boys of the parochial school. It will consist of songs, recitations, dialogues, playetts and other selections which carry with them the cheerful Christmas spirit. At the conclusion of the entertainment the Christmas tree will be presented by Santa Claus to the children and the presents distributed.

Thursday evening, December 27, the young ladies will give a box supper and progressive card party.

December, 31, New Year's eve, the Dramatic club will present "Oak Farm," a two and one-half hour comedy-drama.

**THE
LITTLE FELLER'S
STOCKIN'**



H, IT'S Christmas
Eve, and moon-
light, and t h e
Christmas air is
chill,

And the frosty Christmas holly shines
and sparkles on the hill,
And the Christmas sleigh bells jingle,
and the Christmas laughter rings,
As the last stray shoppers hurry, takin'
home the Christmas things;
And up yonder in the attic there's a little
trundle bed
Where there's Christmas dreams a-dan-
cin' through a sleepy, curly head,
And it's "Merry Christmas," Mary, once
ag'in fer me and you,
With the little feller's stockin' hangin'
up beside the flue.

'Tisn't silk, that little stockin', and it
isn't much fer show,
And the darns are pretty plenty round
about the heel and toe,
And its color's kinder faded, and it's
sorter worn and old,
But it reelly is surprisin' what a lot of
love 'twill hold;
And the little hand that hung it by the
chimbly there along
Has a grip upon our heartstrings that is
mighty firm and strong;
So, old Santy, don't forgit it, though it
isn't fine and new,
That plain little worsted stockin' hangin'
up beside the flue.

And the crops may fall, and leave us
with our plans all gone ter smash,
And the mortgage may hang heavy, and
the bills use up the cash,
But whenever comes the season, jest so
long's we've got a dime,
There'll be somethin' in that stockin'—
won't there, Mary?—every time.
And if, in amongst our sunshine, there's
a shower er two of rain,
Why, we'll face it, bravely smilin', and
we'll try not ter complain
Long as Christmas comes and finds us
here together, me and you,
With the little feller's stockin' hangin' up
beside the flue.
—Joe Lincoln, in Philadelphia Saturday
Evening Post. Copyright by Curtis
Publishing Co.

Sainte Marie's Greatest Generations

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

Harley and Lena Kirts



The history of Sainte Marie is not complete without the inclusion of Lena and Harley Kirts. This couple was an integral part of the fabric that made up Sainte Marie.

Lena Catherine Alblinger was born to August and Barbara Agnes Alblinger on April 4, 1897. She was the 5th of the 8 children the couple reared on the house on Embarras Street. Siblings of Lena included Augustine, John, Mary Theresa, Severine, Christine, Charles (died in infancy), and Eugene. A little background on her grandparents and great-grandparents helps us understand the difficulties families encountered trying to make a better life for their children. Her father, Augustus, was born in the Black Forest area of Germany, the son of Paul and Magdalena Maus Alblinger. The family of six came to the United States in 1868 when August was 16 years of age, settling in Trenton, Illinois. Tragedy struck the family when August's father, Paul, died at the age of 50, having lived in the United States for a short 7 years. Magdalene moved to Sainte Marie and lived there until her death in 1913.

Barbara's parents were Xavier David Michl and Teresia E. Ederer. Both were born in Germany; Teresia emigrated as a young child and Xavier as a teenager. The difficult journey proved too much for Xavier's father and he died enroute to the United States. A profound loss for a family just beginning their new life in a different country.

August met Barbara when he was visiting the area. They were married on July 20, 1886, in Sainte Marie. August was 34 and Barbara was 21. Their family grew and life was full of difficulties, but happy, until tragedy struck on April 12, 1908. August, always frail, died from pneumonia at the age of 55. While death is always difficult when a family loses the father, back 125 years ago, the father was the breadwinner of the family. There were no government programs to ensure that widows and young children were taken care of. And it was extremely unusual for women to work outside of the home.

Luckily, Barbara had very industrious children who worked to support her and the rest of the family.

Lena remembered helping her older brothers with the job of ringing the church bells. Now, this was no easy task, even for those who were experienced and physically able to do it! The bells had to be rung EVERY day at 6:00 am, noon, and 6:00 pm. When a parish member passed away, the death toll had to be rung. Lena and one of her brothers worked for the Picquet family when they were 10 or 12.

Another job the family was involved in was the production of the Sainte Marie Tribune. Gus, the oldest child had worked as the typesetter under the original owner of the paper, Otis Stanley. When Stanley decided to move on, he sold the paper to Gus. Gus (editor from 1904-1912) enlisted the help of his brother, John, and other members of the family to meet the publishing of the paper on Thursdays. John took over when Gus went to college and also when he moved to Pesotum to work for the Pesotum Chief. A small building that housed the paper was moved in 1905 to the northeast corner of the Alblinger property. This building housed the paper, the and a small switchboard for those in the village who were lucky enough to have a telephone. The Alblinger family also ran this and the telephone office. After WWI, it housed the Sainte Marie Post Office until 1961.

At the age of 21, Lena became Postmaster of the Sainte Marie Post Office on July 15, 1918. She continued working at the post office until April 23, 1967, an amazing career of 49 years. It was very unusual for a woman to have a job and family during the time. She worked for 41 years at the Post Office that formerly housed the Tribune and 8 years at the modern building that replaced it.

COUNTY.		ILLINOIS	
271	378
...
...
...

Harley was born on September 14, 1894, to Charles Melvin and Mary Essie Kessler Kirts in the Pond Grove area, the oldest of five children. His paternal grandparents were Henry Clay and Lucinda Jane Sprague Kirts. Maternal grandparents were John A. and Mary Molly Lampkin Kessler.

As a young man his family moved to Sainte Marie. It was here that Harley had the first of his several jobs in the village such as a meat cutter and store clerk.

Announcement

We wish to announce to the public that we have added a new line in connection with our general stock of goods, that of

Fresh and Cured Meats--Lard

Which department will be complete in every respect, in regard to cleanliness, freshness, purity and kinds of meats and lard.

To do this we have secured the services of an experienced young man, Mr. Harley Kirts, who will have charge of this department.

Please Remember

That our line of Merchandise and Groceries will be as complete as ever, special attention being given to each line.

Highest market prices paid for your Poultry, Eggs and Produce.

J. H. Strotman, Sainte Marie
Picquet Building

Harley Kirts has been employed as meat-cutter in J. H. Strotman's fresh meat department in the rear of his store. Harley will also clerk in the store.

He was one of the first Jasper County men to head to WWI leaving on August 24, 1918. He and other Jasper County men headed first to Camp Taylor in Kentucky where he trained as a cook. Due to his musical experience, he was the camp bugler.



Harley Kirts Camp Taylor, KY 1918

News from Camp Taylor

The boys from here who are training at Camp Taylor, Ky., for participation in the European battles are all in the best of health and enjoying themselves according to letters received here from them.

Jasper and Cumberland county men are in the same quarters and these two counties will constitute the company in which our boys are. There are now encamped there 25,000 men which will be increased to 40,000 after all drafted men are sent. The buildings and training grounds cover about 30 square miles. All the boys are very busy training. Saturday afternoon and Sunday are camp holidays and many spent the time at Louisville which is about five miles from headquarters.

Harley Kirts is now a bugler. His time is employed in blowing the call to arise, mess etc.

Frank Beasler, Alois Helregel, Paul Riegler, Rolla Foust, the other boys from here are all enjoying their training and feel contented. Jacob Burgner is still somewhat homesick.

WORD FROM BOYS AT CAMP

Majority are Making Best of the Situation

The little colony of soldiers representing Ste Marie township at Camp Taylor, Louisville, Ky., are all well and enjoying their new habitation. The only complaint they have is in the amount of food they receive, it being somewhat limited for the present on account of the inability of the government to meet all emergencies at the training camps immediately upon the arrival of the selective men.

Harley Kirts in a letter to his parents states that "We are all O. K. Jacob Burgner is the only one among us that is a little homesick. Our camp is well situated. Our homes, which number 1500 are about 100 feet long and house 200 men. In these have our mess halls and dormitories. We have not been call up for physical examination yet but expect to be on the carpet within the next week."

He then headed to France where he was stationed for several months. He did get to visit Paris once while on leave. He headed home for good in July of 1919 where he and John Alblinger purchased the hardware store from John F. and Henry Weber, renaming it Alblinger and Kirts Hardware. They continued the operation of the store and oversaw its growth until John's retirement in 1972 and Harley's in 1974. Again, very long careers by today's standards. The store was a cornerstone of the Sainte Marie community for 86 years.

Chas. Kirts visited his son Harley Kirts at Camp Taylor, Ky. Harley has been there in training in the Medical corps since last September. Mr. Kirts reports that he is in splendid condition and that camp life there is ideal in every respect.

Harley T. Kirts, a soldier in the U. S. Medical Corps, in training at Camp Taylor, Ky., came home on a furlough Wednesday morning to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Kirts and family.

Advertisement in 1923

Alblinger & Kirts
HARDWARE

Stoves,
Ranges,
Paints,
Oils,
Varnishes,
Auto Tires,
Implements,
Automobiles,
Furniture,
Rugs, Linoleums,
Cream Separators,
Fencing Wire,
Radio Outfits,
Plumbing and Roofing
Electrical Wiring,
Roofing

Alblinger & Kirts,
Sainte Marie, Illinois.
7. J. ALBLINGER H. T. KIRTS

Lena and Harley were both active young people in the community as can be seen by the following articles in the Sainte Marie Tribune.

Band Re-organizes

The Ste. Marie Band which disbanded about two years ago re-organized this week. At a meeting held Tuesday the members decided to begin practice at once to be ready for the coming Fourth of July.

Instrumentation is to be as follows:

Harley Kirts	Cornet
Ed Spitzer	Cornet
Sev Alblinger	Cornet
Jos. Miller	Baratone
V. C. Wuerth	Trombone
Henry Kirts,	Alto
Louis Kirts	Alto
August Radke	Alto
Fred Huss	Tenor
Jos. Geltz	Bass Drum
Dan Ochs	B B Bass
Maurice Kirts	Snare Drum
John Alblinger	Clarinet

Play Brings \$76.50

The Dramatic Club's presentation of "Oak Farm" at the Dramatic hall was witnessed by the largest crowd ever seated at any performance heretofore given by the Club. The admission amounted to \$76.50.

The play was well presented and the Club certainly deserve credit for their efforts.

The representing characters in the play were Jos. Geltz, Fred Huss, Aug. Radke, Clarence Menke, Louis Strutner, Leo Ostheimer, John Alblinger, Misses Mary Huss, Rose Barker, Theresa Hann and Lena Alblinger.

Retreat for Young People

Rev. Fr. Hoffman of Effingham gave the young Catholic people of the Assumption church here a very interesting course of lectures in the way of a retreat, from Saturday till Monday afternoon.

The lectures were well received by those attending, being delivered in such a way and style that one could not but help to appreciate them, even in a worldly sense. The object was to better equip the young people morally.

The lectures closed with receptions into the Sodality, those joining being:

YOUNG MEN'S SODALITY

George Hoecherl	Elmer Rohr
Joseph Bolander	Joseph Strutner
Leo Strutner	Odillo Litzelman
Sylvester Schwager	

YOUNG LADIES' SODALITY

Mary Bolander	Charlene Rohr
Lena Atblinger	Agnes Helregel
Rose Barker	Marie Spitzer
Zita Lamotte	

Micht school house.

Louis Kirts, Fred Huss, Alex Leinhardt, Harley Kirts and John Alblinger attended the motorcycle races at Terre Haute Sunday.

Private Opinion Club Organized

The 1912 Ambraw club has passed into oblivion, that is, just the name, the old club reorganizing with the name of "Private Opinion Club." Five new members have been admitted to the club totaling the membership twenty-five, an increase of over last year.

The same "haunts" will be as last year—the J. F. hall, which has been excellently fitted with chairs, tables, pool table.

The members are:

DOCTORS
 Dr. G. C. Brown Dr. O. A. K
 Dr. A. Fehrenbacher

BUSINESS MEN
 J. F. Weber A. J. Litzelman
 C. E. Lamotte Theo. Hartrich
 F. L. Merceret A. C. Bolander
 A. A. Strutner James Picquet
 Walter Picquet Sev Alblinger
 Arthur Curtright Ted Huff
 S. B. Barker J. M. Stone

CLERKS
 George Schackman John Alblinger
 Edw. Barthelme Harley Kirts
 Joseph Miller

MEN OF LIESURE
 Mike Kelter John Huff

FARMERS
 Albert Kaufman

Lena and Harley were married on February 13, 1928. Their first choice was to have the ceremony the next day on the 14th, but Helen and August Radke were going to be married that day. Unfortunately, Father Virnich would only perform one wedding ceremony a day. They were wed at 6:30 am so they could catch the train at Boos to go to New Orleans for Mardi Gras!

They settled into married life in the house where they spent the rest of their lives, 113 Washington Street. Lena continued to work as the Postmistress and Harley at the hardware store he co-owned with his brother-in-law John Alblinger. They liked to golf and became charter members of Richland County Golf Club and even went to French Lick to play; of course, this was before children. The couple was blessed with three children: Joan, Ron, and Larry. Ron continued the Sainte Marie tradition, living there all his life. Larry passed away in February of 2022.

Ron remembers spending lots of time playing cards with Grandma Alblinger as a young child after school while his mother worked at the Post office. Lena would work until 5 pm and then the kids would go home. They also saw their grandfather, Charles Kirts, almost every day. The family visited the Kirts grandparents at least once a week.



Lena and Harley at their 50th anniversary in 1978. Also pictured is daughter, Joan Kirts Henneberry.

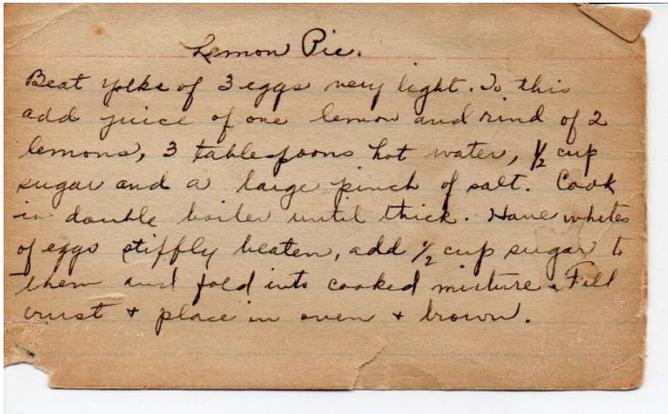
Granddaughter Rhonda Kirts remembers spending a lot of time on the porch swing with her grandparents talking about some of their favorite activities and adventures: playing the card game 7-Up with Ferd and Mayme Hartrich and August and Helen Radke, fishing with Ferd and Mayme at the Dead River, cheering on the St. Louis Cardinals. In 1944, they attended the World Series with the Hartrichs.



I wonder what opinions were being thrown out at these meetings! Probably those they couldn't voice at home!

Taking the local grandchildren on Sunday afternoon drives was a special time and usually ended with a trip to the Taste Freez in Newton to get some ice cream. Harley and Lena also loved popcorn, so you could usually count on having a treat of hot, buttery popcorn if you were at their home in the evening.

Harley and Lena did not travel very often, but when they did it was usually by train to see Joan's family in the Washington, D.C. area.



Joan and her husband, Don, moved to the D.C., area shortly after they were married. Because of the distance, their children were not able to come to come to Sainte Marie see their grandparents often, but when they did, they soaked up every minute!

Following is an excerpt from the book, "Stories and Reminiscences 1837-2012" written by the Heneberry grandchildren. They very succinctly summed up the Sainte Marie experience!

".....there is a part of Sainte Marie – the sounds and the people – in each of us that we've carried through our lives.we can't hear mourning doves or see a 7-Up without instantly being taken back to ...sitting on Grandma's front porch looking across the field toward the hardware store...hearing the church bell toll at noon and watching for Grandpa to come home for dinner, (or sometimes running across the field from up town to try and beat him driving the truck)...catching fireflies in a jar....running around town to see if anything had changed since our last visit, thankful that not much had...going to the Post Office to see Grandma and to see Aunt Chris at the bank...going on service call in the truck with Uncle Ron or Uncle Larry, feeling honored we were asked to "help" and feeling special that we were included....playing Bingo with Grandma....sitting and listening to the Cardinals games on the radio with Grandpa...Grandma's big doorbell that played "Westminster Chimes" ...doing dishes and flicking each other with the towel (Grandma was deadly)....making friends that have lasted a lifetime.

As a group, Sainte Marie and the people there taught us about the importance of family, of community, of hard work, of friendship, of tolerance (even though we were probably the ones being tolerated most of the time) and that we have

a very special family with uncles and aunts and cousins that we don't see often enough."

Harley and Lena were the epitome of the people of Sainte Marie. They were hard working, had great faith, took pleasure in the simple things in life, cared for their neighbors, and were responsible members of the community....just always there! Harley and Lena both lived in the Sainte Marie area all of their long lives. Harley passed away in 1986 at the age of 90. and Lena lived 8 days past her 100th birthday. She died in 1997.

Sainte Marie is much richer because of them.



Harley with a 5 pond bass he caught



Ron and Larry Kirts



Fishing at Bluegill Hole



Rosemary Hartrich Mullinax and Joan Kirts Heneberry



The Hartrich family and Kirts families enjoying a picnic

ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE NEXT SAINTE MARIE FOUNDATION MUSEUM DISPLAY

FROM THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

1962 - 125TH CELEBRATION

1987 - 150TH CELEBRATION

1976 - JASPER COUNTY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION HELD IN SAINTE MARIE

ST. MARY'S CHURCH PICNICS HELD ON THE GROUNDS AND IN THE OLD PARISH CENTER
BEND PICNICS:

THINGS NEEDED:

PICTURES

SLIDES

HOME MOVIES/ VIDEOS

MEMORABILIA FROM THESE EVENTS:

RIBBONS, BUTTONS

PERIOD DRESSES MADE FOR THE ABOVE OCCASIONS - MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S CLOTHES WORN DURING THE CELEBRATIONS

SOUVENIRS

DOLLS FROM THE DOLL STAND AT OLD CHURCH PICNICS

PICTURES OF THE VERY EARLY PICNICS AT ST. MARY'S AND ST. VALENTINES

WRITTEN OR VIDEOED MEMORIES OF PICNICS, MEALS, PREP, COOK SHACK, GAMES ON THE GROUNDS, ETC

If you have any items that you would like to loan the Foundation for the museum display, please contact Mike Hartrich - 618-562-8678 or Donna M. Keller (text) 618-562-3434 or Sharon Tuttle (text) 618-309-1550 or you can contact Mike or Donna on Facebook Messenger. The plan is to open the new exhibit in the spring of 2023 and it will be up for 2 years. THANK YOU!

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 quarterly. Send comments to writer/editor Gina Fox gina.fox1@gmail.com

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