



# Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's fall season 2008

Volume 1, Issue 4

## Update from the President

### *What's Happening in Ste. Marie?*

-It's fall and the leaves are starting to turn. The big events are past (the **Faltemier** (*see pix*) and **Barthelme** Reunions, St. Mary's church picnic, **Sons of American Legion** barbeque chicken dinner, **Come Back Home, Bruce Ochs'** 45-minute July



Ken Stone (Ames, IA)  
Janet Faltemier Sitkewich  
(Los Gatos, CA)

Fourth fireworks display, etc.) and the village is getting ready to button down for the winter. Two of the Foundation's biggest helpers are recovering from some physical setbacks: **Bob Helregel** hurt his lower back in a fall from a ladder at his farm, and **John Michl** is getting dialysis treatments. Both say they are much improved now, and we wish them well.

-The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other government agencies spent much time in Ste. Marie this past summer, assessing the Embarras River levee breaks that occurred both above and below the village. No repairs yet, but the huge break on Art Keller's land south of Ste. Marie has had a steady stream of curious visitors. The water-filled hole is estimated to be 50 feet deep.

-**Ed Hahn** celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren over Labor Day weekend. Ed and his wife **Angela** lived in Ste. Marie all of their lives but moved to Newton in the last few years to be near their daughter **Madonna Schachman**. But their hearts are still in Ste. Marie, and everyone in town still claims them as their own.

-Welcome home to **Dottie Valbert Rumpp** and husband **Robert** who have moved back after 20 years in CA.

-Don't miss the **Community Club's Haunted House** at the Firehouse, Oct. 24 & 25, 7 p.m. to midnight. \$5 entry

## Profile: Maxine Calvert

If she were writing this, she would downplay her role – but the truth is, the Sainte Marie Foundation would probably not be as successful as it is were it not for its vice-president/treasurer, **Maxine Calvert**.

The Calverts moved to Ste. Marie 22 years ago from their farm south of Newton. Their two-bedroom, Ste. Marie home seemed too small, so Maxine and Maurice had a “great room” built on the back, which added a beautiful, light-filled, two-story space.

Maxine was a CPA, working as a vice president/trust officer for the **Peoples State Bank/Newton**. She completed her education as her children were growing up, going back to school to get a CPA license. She was at **Kemper CPA Group** in Robinson for 11 years before going to the bank.

In late summer 2007 she and Pat Reis started the Sainte Marie Foundation. “I needed someone to do the ‘numbers’ work,” admits Pat. “That’s just not my strength, and fortunately, Maxine was there to provide



the help I needed.”

Maxine also became the “point-person” in Ste. Marie, collecting the mail, supervising repairs at the Foundation House and co-chairing the **Come Back Home** event. Maurice can often be found at the Foundation House, mowing the lawn or putting putty/paint on windows.

What do Maurice and Maxine do for fun? Actually, Maxine's main passion is photography. Many of her photos are on the Foundation website. They both love traveling around the US in their 25' motor home or tending the beautiful gardens around their home. The Foundation thanks both of them for making the Foundation so successful in its first year.

**Come Back Home a Success**

Over 200 people attended our first Come Back Home celebration on Saturday, Aug. 30.



*Steve and Gina Mullinax Fox checked reservations at The Hideout.*

Starting with a buffet lunch at the Hideout (*delicious*, everyone agreed), the day evolved into a mix of parade, horse-drawn wagon rides and tours, viewing old pictures in the fire house, watching the historical DVD's in the Village Hall Board Room and visiting with former Ste. Marie residents who hadn't seen each other in years. From 4 – 6 p.m. the Foundation House was open for viewing, and folks wandered into all the rooms (not very pretty at this point with falling plaster and peeling wallpaper), expressing hope that we will be able to get to the inside renovation soon.



Of note were siblings who traveled far to be together such as, all seven of the Huffs (5 nurses - **Jean Gala, Ann LaMothe, Mary Rushin, Lucy Gorman, Julie Martin** – one Ph.D entomologist, **Bernie**, and a 33-year veteran special ed teacher, **Geri Andiorio**), four of the **Frauli's (Phyllis Rudolphi, Charles, Don** (all the way from TX) and **John**), the five **Litzelman** sisters (**Carolyn Kirts, Marylaine Rohr, Pat Mammoser, Judy Cunningham and Joan Cunningham**) and the **Dorothy Hahn** kids and grandchildren who gathered around the longest table in the Hideout. The Foundation will have a fabulous DVD of the event in the near future.

***Parade Winners***

The little non-motorized parade was meant to be quite “tongue-in-cheek” (the fire engine was miniature; the “bands” were CD's played on boom boxes, etc.). The **American Legion Women's Auxiliary** led the parade, boldly hoisting the colors.



*Parade Marshal Josephine Spitzer (92) waves to the crowd from her decorated golf cart.*



*NCHS drummers (l – r) Nash Swisher and Ryan Millsap kept the parade moving.*

Prizes were:

**Decorated bicycles**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – The Mitchell Family
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Tie: Courtney Hadra, Brady Reis and Lauren Young

**Decorated wagons**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – The Hahn Sprouts (Dorothy Hahn's grandkids!)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Hartrichs Meats (wagon made by Hop Hartrich)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Clayton Reis



**Decorated golf carts**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – The Burdette Sisters (M/M Ron Kirts' granddaughters)



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – The Hunzinger Sisters (Lucy Hartrich and Judy Walker)



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – The American Legion Women's Auxiliary

**Miscellaneous**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Lloyd Brimling's Mule Cart and



horse



- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – The Hahn Twins' Tandem Bike (Sharon Kocher and Karen Hosselton)



- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Larry Hahn on his Big Bike



Other parade highlights:



The **Community Club** sold soft drinks, popcorn and snow cones, clowns created balloon animals, the kids bounced and slid on giant inflatables provided by the Foundation – and a general good time was had by all.



Led by co-chairs **Maxine Calvert, Janet Hartrich and Kathy Yager**, Come Back Home re-connected

Ste. Marie to many of its former residents and friends.

*Face-painter Mary Goss had a popular booth.*

As **Margo Regas** said in a note thanking all the volunteers after the event, “I have always been concerned my ties to the town

would diminish with the death of my aunts, uncles and grandma, but with the Foundation I can ‘always come home.’”

### Foundation House Progress

Since our last newsletter, professionals have been working on the house: resetting foundation blocks all the way around the house; adding a new front porch floor and five columns; removing the two old chimneys where

the bricks and mortar had crumbled. Professionals also installed a new chimney pipe to vent the furnace and water heater as well as a new furnace control panel (old one had rusted out); removed an ants’ nest from AC condenser so it would work again; replaced heating/AC ducts under front crawl spaces that had been torn apart by industrious raccoons. (*A surprise find!!*)

Volunteers were also hard at work: besides clearing out lots of trash inside the house, they tore off the useless gutters (may not be replaced until spring); filled two old cisterns with dirt; tore out all the plants/shrubs/trees next to the house so the foundation work could be done; replaced dirt around foundation so the water does NOT run toward the house when it rains. Volunteers have also painted and caulked the sun porch windows where the glass was nearly falling out. We can see progress, but there is still a lot more to do.

Please join us at our workdays. See below.

**Workdays: Wednesday, Oct. 1, 9-4 and Saturday, Oct. 25, 9-3.** Come help us do some yard work, finish some painting projects on the outside of the house, add dirt to the lawn for better drainage and start work inside on painted wallpaper that needs to be chipped off. Call Maxine Calvert to confirm 618-455-3227.

### We Get Mail....

(Via e-mail) **Roger Picquet** wrote: *I have just reviewed the Foundation web site and found it very well done and interesting. I live in California but have managed to get to Ste Marie a few times over the years as I researched my family genealogy.....I hope to have the opportunity to visit again in 2009 or 2010. Keep up the good work in preserving the village’s history, character and traditions.*

**Sylvia Geltz Brinkoetter** (Springfield, IL) included a note with her donation: *So glad to hear that the Foundation will restore the Kirts Home. I spent a lot of time there playing when growing up. Lots of good memories. Lena Kirts (Alblinger then) was my mother’s maid of honor when mom and dad got married in 1919.*

**Jean Huff Gala** (Lincoln, IL) sent her check with a note: *I value the wonderful childhood I had in Ste. Marie. I knew everyone in town by name.*

**Jean Barthelme Regas** (Indpls, IN) sent in a donation in honor of all Foundation volunteers. Thank you, Jean. There are many folks who are giving of their time and

energies, especially with the work at the Foundation House and an event like Come Back Home.

### **Historical Interviews Moving Ahead**

The Foundation continues to record the memories of Ste. Marie residents. To date, the DVD's include: **Romonna Hunzinger Ochs, Ron Kirts, Paul Mullinax, Evelyn Geltz Kocher** and **The Quilting Ladies**. Cost: \$25 each.

### **A Gift That Really Works**

**Robert Geltz**, Oswego, IL, recently donated \$1000 to the Foundation honoring his parents, **Albert and Bess**, and all his eight siblings and their spouses. What a wonderful way to remember your loved ones!

#### *What Should I Give Mom & Dad This Year?*

How about suggesting to your children that a gift to the Foundation is the gift you would like them to give at Christmas? I asked my own children to do that last Christmas – and they were very generous in their

contributions, given in my honor. They also love Ste. Marie so were happy to give to the little town where they had spent many happy summers with Grandma Reis.

### **Light Up the Village Kick-Off**

The Ste. Marie Community Club and the Sainte Marie Foundation invite everyone to the **Village Tree Lighting Ceremony** next to Village Hall on Sat., Nov. 29 at 3 p.m. Children (and adults!) are invited to hang ornaments on the tree. There will be games and refreshments inside Village Hall.

The Village has purchased new LED lights for the tree this year – thus saving electricity and providing a truly spectacular display of lights. **Annette Lynch** is again decorating the old bank windows, and she promises an even more wonderful fairyland this year.

Ste. Marie has become the place to visit during the holidays with all its glorious Christmas displays.

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

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

**[www.saintemariefoundation.org](http://www.saintemariefoundation.org)**

### **Volunteer Workdays at Foundation House**

**Wednesday, Oct. 1, 9-4**

**Saturday, Oct. 25, 9-3**

### **Community Club Haunted House**

**Oct. 24 & 25 - 7 p.m. – midnight**

### ***Light Up the Village Kick-off***

**Sat., Nov. 29 – 3 p.m.**