



Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's spring season 2013

Volume 6, Issue 2

Website Redo

Thanks to the talents of Sainte Marie resident **Jason Warfel**, the Foundation website now has a new look. Jason created the Community Club's very striking 175th website, so we asked if he would help redo ours and the answer was yes.

See www.saintemariefoundation.org for the new website that features more content (even 175th Book excerpts) and pictures. The Village section includes a new feature *What Can You Do in Sainte Marie?* –a walk around town (hopefully on a nice spring day with the winter blasts gone!). Visitors new to SM can print out a *pdf* copy with pictures of the places they might visit (great for friends or grandchildren who have heard so much about your hometown but don't know what to do when they arrive!).

Warfel is vice president of **Kuhl's Trailer Sales, Inc.**, an RV dealership and campground located near Wendelin, owned and operated by his family since 1973. In 2011, he married **Julie (Thompson)**, one of the owners of **The Gas Station**. They are parents of **Cora Raelynn** who was featured in the 175th Book as "Sainte Marie's Newest Resident" (born April 18, 2012 right before the Book was published).

Flower Basket Sponsors 2013

The names below will be posted on the old bank windows during the summer season:



American Legion Post #932
ASL Solutions, Inc
BJ's Interior Decorating
Hahn Remodeling & Construction
Hartrich Meats, Inc.
Paul & Carolyn Keller
Mont Eagle Mills
Peoples State Bank of Newton
Sainte Marie State Bank

State Rep. David Reis & Family
Margo Regas

In Memory of

-Francis Xavier Geltz
From Sylvia A Brinkoetter
-Ethel Kautz
From the Keith Kautz Family
-Alice Keller
From the Arthur Keller Family
-Ted, Beulah, Joyce Litzelman & Ted's Tavern
From Linda M. Litzelman

-Rosemary Mullinax

From the Mullinax children

-Bernard & Marie Ochs

From all their family

-F. J. "Popeye" Rubsam, Deanie Geiger & Marion Janes

From Marylyn Rubsam

-Francis Schmidt

From Barbara Schmidt Martin

-Josephine Spitzer

From Paul & Marcie Rexroats

-Robert (Bob) & Freda Swisher

From Carol, Jim & Patti

-Louis & "Dollie" Valbert

From Dorothy/Robert Rump & Liz Valbert

-Francis & Maude Wagner

From Barbara, Caroline, Marie, Judy

Nancy & Mary

In Honor Of

-Mildred Schmidt

From Barbara Schmidt Martin

Foundation House Update

As I write this newsletter, **Larry Hahn**, our contractor, is renovating the 1st floor bathroom. Thanks to **Judy Alblinger Brangeon's** gift of \$2500 for this project (partial cost, so we could still use donations on this), we demolished the old bathroom down to the studs and have added a shower, along with new fixtures. But we kept that glorious, 80 - 100 year old tub! Also, the bathroom walk-in closet is now a "water closet" with an additional stool and sink. Our guests are going to love this new arrangement.

We thank Foundation Board member **Donna Keller** and designer **Bonnie Beaucherie Jackson** for directing this project for the Foundation. They spent several days out shopping for fixtures, cabinets, floor, etc. Bonnie is well known in the area for her interior design work, and we are blessed to have her involved in this project as a volunteer. Thank you, Bonnie.

To Book the Foundation House

Plan ahead, if you and your family wish to stay at the Foundation House. Make reservations with **Ron or Carolyn Kirts 618-455-3153**.

Workday at the House – April 27, 9 – 3

Join us as we put the House back together after the bath renovation and prepare it for the summer months. There will be yard clean-up and painting (always painting!!), so wear old clothes and prepare to have a good time as we tackle the projects that keep the House in such pristine condition.

New Elevator Structure Rises



Workers on two lifts position the hoop structure on new grain elevator building. *Photo by Maxine Calvert*

Mont Eagle Mills is building a new grain elevator on land just south of DM Manufacturing, south of Sainte Marie. The current elevator started by the Hartrich Brothers (Sonny and “Hop”) in the late ‘40’s is in the village proper, but “we needed a new facility and more space,” said owner **Bob Glezen** in a recent interview. “The equipment was worn out and built for a different time.”

The first concrete structure is 100’ x 150’ x 10’ high with a fabric dome that rises high above the flat prairie. Observers at first thought they were getting a smaller version of The Arch, St. Louis’ famed tourist attraction. But the “hoops” are now covered, and soon truckloads of fertilizer will be rolling in.

The grain elevator is next, with construction planned for early April. Then the new office and scales will be built. “We plan to be totally moved in by the 2013 harvest,” says Glezen. The road and huge circle drive are already in place. The older buildings within the village will continue to be used as needed.

“We are very excited about this improvement for our customers,” said Glezen. “The new facility is as modern as any in the area, and we are very happy to still be part of the Sainte Marie community. And we love your flower baskets!”

News Notes

-Congrats to **Ron and Carolyn (Litzelman) Kirts** who will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, May 4. Ron is treasurer of the Sainte Marie Foundation. Carolyn handles reservations at the House for us. They have lived in SM all their lives and have contributed greatly to its longtime success.

-Where is the **albino raccoon**? Yes, someone recently “lifted” the stuffed albino raccoon that was a longtime resident of HiBenders’ tavern. Everyone is mourning its loss, so if any of you know of its whereabouts, please let the HiBenders folks know.

-We are still using Heath Foundation grant money for display cases. Thanks to **Donna Keller** and **Theresa Hartrich** who spotted some wonderful, old cases at a Newton antique store that was closing. **Donna** recruited her husband **Bob** and son, **Jason Keller**, along with Board member **Mike Hartrich** to move them to the Foundation House after purchase.

-Thanks to **Jim Logan** who responded to my request for 1962 Quasquicentennial books. He had five which he graciously donated to the Foundation, along with other Sainte Marie and St. Mary’s booklets and other publications.



-Congratulations to **Celeste Keller** (left) on her 100th birthday. She now lives near daughter **Jean Smith** in Decatur. It was great to see her in Sainte Marie last year during our 175th year. Daughter **June Zuber** lives in nearby Assumption, IL.

-The next **Barthelme Reunion** is set for **July 20, 2014**, instead of the 2013 date that was discussed last year. Put it on your calendars. One family has already booked the Foundation House for the 2014 date!

Display Case Returns “Home”

In late 2011, the Glencoe Historical Society donated three display cases to the Foundation. We used them for the 175th museum display in the front windows of **The Corner Pocket**, the old Alblinger and Kirts Hardware Store last June.

Several months ago, we received a request from Glencoe architect Scott Javore asking if they could have the oldest and most historical one back for a

consignment shop they were opening to benefit two charities. Seems that the case had spent 90 years in Glencoe's longest-running business, a hardware store that closed in 1992. *Of course*, we said. Frankly, if we lost something like that, we would want the piece back in Sainte Marie where it belonged!

In late February, Glencoe paid to move it back.

Scott Javore told the story of the "traveling" case at the store's grand opening, ending with this comment: *"So, the Wienecke [Hardware] display case that lived for 90 years one-half a block away from [this store] was donated [to us] by the Sainte Marie Foundation from Southern Illinois! That will always remain a great trivia question [for Glencoe historians]!"*

We Get Mail

Your editor loved that **2013 Super Bowl ad** that honored farmers and farm communities, so I sent it out via e-mail to the Foundation's e-mail list. Below are two of the replies we received: (Check it out at www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMpZ0TGjbWE if you missed it.)

Michelle Helregel Vogt: *I was so proud to see this ad. I thought of home, my hard-working family members who farmed over the many years (and their spouses and children), and the many farm families of the Ste. Marie area. Thanks for sharing.*

Barbara Schmidt Martin: *I feel that growing up on a farm in the Midwest is a special bond for all who were fortunate enough to have this experience.*

Transitions

Catherine Kraus Kocher, 82. Survivors: Children **Charles, Jim and Rose LoGrasso**, 5 grandchildren. Former president of SM American Legion Auxiliary.

Martha Kocher, 92. Survivors: Husband **Ted Kocher**; surviving children **Ed and Cathy**, 6 grandchildren. Martha was a charter member and former officer of the SM American Legion Auxiliary.

Wanted

We are looking for a old wardrobe for the Foundation House. If you have one, please contact Donna Keller at 618-455-3452.

175th Book Correction

The 175th Book was going to the printer at this time last year. A few months ago, your editor learned that the persons identified in the top picture on page 150 were incorrect. My apologies. Here are the correct names:

Standing (l to r): Nicholas Reis; Pauline Litzelman (wife of James Litzelman) holding Rose Litzelman Schwartz; Louise Pictor, wife of Arthur Pictor; Mary Reis, wife of William Reis; Laurene Paules, adopted son of Wm. & Mary Reis; Mary Radke (Mrs. Gene Litzelman); Frances Yost Reis – wife of Nicholas Reis; James Yost, foster son of Nicholas & Frances Reis; William Reis

Sitting (l – r): James Litzelman; George Litzelman; Arthur Pictor, holding Henry Pictor; George Pictor

Sitting on steps (l – r): Josephine (Dode) Litzelman Rohr; Florence Litzelman Rohr; Clara Pictor; Helen Litzelman Radke.

"Voices from the Past" Postponed

The program we announced in the last newsletter for August 31st has been postponed. Instead, during the Labor Day Picnic on Sept. 1, the Foundation will offer a preview of the program that we hope to do next year.

"Voices from the Past" was planned as a program at the St. Mary's Cemetery where actors would be depicting residents who once lived in SM. The short presentations would provide the history of each subject's life, weaving local, regional and world history with a personal narration.

On Sept. 1st **Sandy Bigard Fisher** (Teutopolis) and her sister **Ginger Bigard Robbins** (Newton), will present a sample drama depicting **Dot Huber**, who moved to SM after WW II when she married **Lawrence Huber**. Dot owned a beloved beauty shop and was an active participant in church and community affairs. There will be three short (10 – 15 minutes) performances of this preview – at 1, 3 and 5 p.m. Plan to visit the backyard of the Foundation House where we will have a "miniature cemetery" set up and see how the Voices program will work in the future when we have 6 – 8 depictions planned.

The Foundation hopes this event will provide a greater understanding of the rich history of our little village.

Free. Children are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

Sainte Marie Foundation
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Cooking the **Barbequed Chicken** at the 175th celebration 2012. (See below for 2013 event.)

Photo by Jeanne Weddell

The Sainte Marie Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Send comments to writer/editor Pat Reis, 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. Do you have a Sainte Marie story you would like to share? Write your own and/or contact Pat Reis patreisprpr@yahoo.com. We reserve the right to edit.

Put on your 2013 calendar:

May 25, 7 -11 a.m. Village Wide Garage Sale

The Community Club sponsors this annual **Village Wide Garage Sale**. Sign up now by contacting **Julie Warfel** 618-455-3173 or **Christina Goss** 618-562-5343. The **Sons of the American Legion (SAL)** will be serving Breakfast Burritos early. Later they will be serving Pork Burgers and Bratwursts until 1:00 p.m. or until they run out. SAL will also be having a garage sale outside on the grounds of the Post home.

July 20, 4 – 7 p.m. Sainte Marie Barbequed Chicken (see picture above)

An exquisite taste-treat, Barbequed Chicken is prepared every year by the Sons of the American Legion. Pick-up available at the Legion Post drive-through from 4 – 7 p.m. Come early; they always run out of this delicacy before closing time! Remember, it's chicken only, no sides.

Sunday, September 1 – St. Mary's Picnic

This is an event we all look forward to each year, as it's really a "homecoming" for many of us. You can still make a donation to the BIG TICKET or at least buy some quilt or Big Ticket chances, as this is St. Mary's major fundraiser for the year. Contact: **Judy Wagner** at stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com or 618-455-3155.



(Left) WW II display from 2012 featuring Maxine Hartrich's nurse uniforms, Lucie Hartrich's "parachute" wedding dress, Harold Hartrich uniform and other paraphernalia. *Photo by Jeanne Weddell*

Museum Update

Many of you loved the museum displays that we had up for the 175th weekend last year. Our plans are to have similar displays starting in 2014. So we are putting the word out early. **If you have something of historical interest that you think the museum might want to display, we would like to borrow it from you for a couple of months with the promise**

that it will be returned at the end of that particular exhibit. That's what we did last year with many of our displays. Contact Mike Hartrich at 618-783-8678 or e-mail him at mdhartrich@hotmail.com with your suggestions.

Bonus for e-mail newsletter. New website pages:



WHAT CAN YOU DO IN SAINTE MARIE?

Take a walk around town and see:

1. The "Mission House," an imposing place where hundreds of young men were once trained to be Missionary of the Sacred Heart priests. The offices of **South Eastern Special Education** now occupy the complex. The municipal swimming pool behind the building is open to residents during the summer months.

SESE



2. **St. Mary's Catholic Church**, founded in 1837, and still one of the largest Catholic churches in the area. Stop by on the Sunday before Labor Day for a fabulous church picnic, one that also functions as a homecoming event for people who left Sainte Marie.

St. Mary's



3. Stop for a refreshing drink at **Hi-Benders Tavern**, located in an old hat shop from the 1900's. Be sure to check out the stuffed, albino raccoon!

Hi-Benders



4. Next door to the tavern is **The Corner Pocket**, a consignment shop chock-full of all kinds of interesting items. The space was originally the longtime Alblinger and Kirts Hardware Store.

Sainte Marie State Bank

5. Visit the **Sainte Marie State Bank** for a look at "old time Sainte Marie." Owners **Don and Rob Alblinger** love to show off the many paintings by former resident **Helen Keller Graham**.



The Gas Station

6. Stop at **The Gas Station** for pizza or hot dogs and other items from their mini mart. Buy a Sainte Marie souvenir while you're there. Oh, yes, and fill your



car with gas!

Hartrich Meats



7. Visit **Hartrich Meats** and buy some of their prize winning bacon or sausage. The store also features such specialty items as pickled beets, corn relish, jams and salsa made by an Amish homemaker.
8. Need pet food or bird seed? Stop at **Mont Eagle Products**, a place that mostly sells livestock feed but carries a full line of pet food.
9. On Monday nights, join the crowd at St. Mary's Parish Hall for a **country dance** from 7 – 9 p.m. No need to bring a partner, as there are always line and circle dances and lots of single folks. \$2.00 admission.
10. View the **Foundation House**, a 140-year-old house that was given to the Sainte Marie Foundation. Plans are to turn parts of it into a museum in 2014. Volunteers have spent hours on the renovation of the house and property.

Foundation House



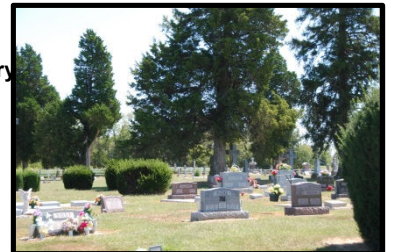
11. The **gardens** in Sainte Marie are show-stoppers. And most people just love to talk about them, so if you see something you like, stop and talk to the gardener! And if you're there in the summertime, be sure to admire the beautiful hanging flower baskets on Main Street.

SM Gardens



12. Feel free to stop anyone to ask questions. Sainte Marie folks love to show off their hometown. They might even take you for a ride in their golf cart, the most popular form of transportation around town.

St. Mary's Cemetery



Drive about ½ mile south of the four-way stop

13. If you like old cemeteries, St. Mary's Cemetery south of town is the place for you. Residents have been buried here for over 175 years. Look around for tombstones etched by well-known artist **Liz Hartrich Thacker** (who grew up in Sainte Marie), who also did the picture of famous folk singer **Burl Ives** on his grave monument in nearby Mound Cemetery (ask for directions).

DM Manufacturing

14. Just south of the cemetery is **DM Manufacturing**, a high volume, commercial welding shop with over 18,000 square feet of workspace. They make wonderful plastic/metal chairs and swings, if you're interested, but most of



their work is heavy-duty commercial.

15. Check out the new **Mont Eagle Mills Grain Elevator** just south of DM. The impressive, expanded elevator is living testimony to today's successful farming operations surrounding the village.

Mont Eagle Mills



Sainte Marie is a village that is still prospering, in an era when small rural towns are mostly disappearing. We think you will enjoy visiting a town that still maintains its quiet, unassuming identity in this fast changing world. Be ready to slow down and relax a bit!

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www.saintemariefoundation.org