



Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's winter season 2010

Volume 3, Issue 1

OUR BIG NEWS!!

Grant Awarded to Foundation

The Sainte Marie Foundation recently received a \$2,000 grant from the Mary Heath Foundation, Robinson, in support of a museum education project that the Foundation has initiated.

This grant gives us the opportunity to copy/restore many printed materials for the start of our historical museum. These documents will bring Ste. Marie's history to life for both children and adults.

If you have documents or pictures that you think should be in the museum (but you don't want to give them up), please contact Mike Hartrich 618-783-8678 or mdhartrich@hotmail.com so we may copy them.

Our main goal for the year is to get the Sainte Marie Museum started in at least one room at the Foundation House. Please consider donating historical objects that would be of interest.



(l-r) Steven J. Schutte, Trust Officer at First National Bank in Robinson, presents a check from the Mary Heath Foundation to Sainte Marie Foundation directors, Maxine Calvert, treasurer, and Ron Kirts, vice-president.

Mark your Calendars

Our plans for the coming year include these events:

-Sunday, May 30, 2 p.m. – Dedication of Loretta Zuber Garden and an Art Reception (17 "Hat Ladies" drawings donated by Helen Keller Graham) at the Foundation House. Everyone is invited to wear fantastic and creative hats to this ice cream social. A hat contest will be held – for men, women and children! More details in next newsletter.

-Saturday, Sept. 4 - 2 p.m., Piano Concert at St. Mary's Church by **James Litzelman**, Professor of Music at Catholic University in Washington, DC. Jim, the son of **Don and Christine Litzelman**, is one of Sainte Marie's finest. DON'T MISS his concert. More details coming. (And it's Labor Day Weekend!)

-Nov. 18, 19, 20 – Sainte Marie's Best: Quilt Show at the Foundation House.

Foundation House Update

-The DCA crew stayed at the House from the last week in June to mid-January. After a few weeks interim, they will be back to finish a 3-week job at Borgic's farm – waiting until it is warm enough to pour concrete. They use the house from Monday to Friday morning, so we have had use of the house on many weekends.

-After many months of monthly weekend workdays, our volunteer crew took the winter off. When spring returns, we will be watching for the daffodils and tulips that we planted in the **Loretta Zuber Memorial Garden** in the front of the house, as well as in the Lena Kirts garden near the north kitchen window.

-Thanks to **Sandy Hartrich, Annette Reis Lynch and Cheryl Parker** who decorated the Foundation House for the Ste. Marie Elementary School staff Christmas party. "We had a wonderful time," said **Dave Parker**, school principal. "In fact, we may make it an annual booking! The house was great."



The Foundation House set up for the Ste. Marie School staff's Christmas Party. These are the tables and chairs donated by select individuals and families during the past year.

Booking the Foundation House

Call Sandy Hartrich at 618-455-3575 or e-mail her at sjh@psbnewton.com. 2010 dates already booked: Easter weekend and the last two weekends in June.

News Notes

- The family of **Dorothy Keller Hahn** celebrated her 90th birthday with a surprise party at the Parish Hall in mid-December. Over 100 people attended, 55 of them Dorothy's children and grandchildren.

-**Paul Mullinax**, now in Charleston, is recovering from knee surgery. Hey, we miss you, Paul!

-**Jim and Karen Reis Young** stayed at the Foundation House during the NCHS Homecoming weekend when Karen's class celebrated their 50th reunion. Since it was a workday at the House, they ended up washing windows and preparing the house for the winter. Thanks, Karen and Jim. We appreciated the extra help! (*see back page pix*)

-**Serena Kaufman** recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Best wishes!

-The Monday night **Country Dance at St. Mary's Parish Hall** draws an average of 125 people each week. **Anna Lou Stone** has now joined the small group of volunteers who manage the dance, including **Lucy Hartrich, Marge Barthelme, Mildred Schmidt and Georgianne Kocher**.

Carolyn and Paul Keller have moved to Ste. Marie – and we send our heartiest welcome. They bought the property two houses north of the post office on Main Street.

Don Bogard, Robinson, has retired from his job as dietician at the Robinson Correctional Center, a state facility. Best wishes to his sister **Neenah** who has been ill in recent months.

People You Should Know: Becky Catt



Becky Catt moved to Ste. Marie about 16 years ago. "We were looking for a house, and this one caught our eye," she says. (for you old-timers, it's the Blanche Chapman house) Becky grew up in Newton; her husband Kevin is from Oblong. They have two children: Casey, 20 and Clayton, 14.

Becky started a licensed daycare program in her home and today cares for five children daily, ranging in age from six-months to a five-year-old. Three others join them after school for an hour or so.

"I took a Medical Transcription program at Olney Central College before I started my daycare program," she says, "but found it just too boring. Kids are never boring!!"

Becky and her friend **Christina Goss** took over the reins of the Community Club three years ago and have focused on its most important role in town—keeping the swimming pool going. The Community Club hires the lifeguards, gets volunteer chaperones, mows the lawn and keeps the locker rooms neat and clean. They also organize the Easter Egg Hunt and the annual town Garage Sale.

And there is the fundraising – a Pork Burger event and, for the past two years, a Halloween Haunted House in the firehouse., mostly to fund the pool.

"Becky Catt is one of the hardest working people I know," says Ron Kirts, who volunteers to keep the technical/mechanical parts of the pool going. "We should all thank her for all her efforts – I've even seen her mowing the lawn and doing the pool's spring clean-up with her husband."

So we send a big thank you to Becky (and Christina) and hope that others will soon take a bit of the load off these two Ste. Marie loyalists!

We Get Letters

-**Hon. Roger Picquet**, a judge for the Superior Court of CA, sent a donation and writes that he hopes to visit Ste. Marie in 2010. Roger is a direct descendent of the founders of the village. We look forward to showing him the Foundation House.

-**Brian Helregel's** donation arrived with a note saying how much he admired the work of all the volunteers who have made the Foundation House look so nice. We want Brian to move back to Ste. Marie!!

-**Sylvia Geltz Brinkoetter** sent us books of stamps (always useful, as we do a lot of mailings) along with a donation and note about how much she enjoyed the Hometown Celebration on Sept. 5. "It's always nice to visit with family and friends," she wrote.

-**Evelyn Radke Null** made a recent donation to the Foundation in honor of "All Foundation Volunteers." Thank you, Evelyn. Volunteers are the backbone of this organization!

-**Melinda Mast** and her husband **Lyle Hazle** made a donation to the Foundation that was a Christmas gift to her mother, **Joyce Ablinger Mast**. Their generous donation will be matched 3-1 by Lyle's employer, the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**. We are most grateful!!

Congrats to **Ed Hahn** who celebrated his 101st birthday in late November. He and wife **Angela** live across the street from their daughter **Madonna Schachman** in Newton.

Thanks

-To **Larry Hahn** for donating his skills to put up the swing on the front porch at the Foundation House. The swing was made by **John Michl** some years ago. **Maurice Calvert** rescued it from a friend who no longer was using it. Seems appropriate for it to be back in Ste. Marie!

-To **Don Albers**, owner of DCA Construction, who donated an in-line water heater booster (installed) to the Foundation House. This appliance will help us avoid expensive electric bills heating water – and is much faster than the traditional water heater.

-To the **DCA crew** who repositioned the south wall of what Ron Kirts calls “the chicken house” – and what I call “the barn.” The wall had slipped off its foundation and was in dire need of repair. Thanks to their efforts, we may be able to save this historic building.

-Foundation Board member **Annette Hahn Kirts** organized the Christmas Tree

Decorating Party on Nov. 21. Forty-six adults and children attended on a warm, fall-like day in Ste. Marie. After putting on the ornaments, everybody retired to the

firehouse for refreshments (drinks donated by Gary and Bridgett Randolph; popcorn courtesy of the Community Club) and a Charlie Brown movie.



Thanks to **Bill Hartrich** and **Jack Thompson** for cleaning up the firehouse ... and to **Ron Kirts** and **Maxine Calvert** who strung the lights a few days earlier so the tree was ready to be decorated.

Corrections

We apologize for several omissions in the Annual Report 2009, sent out last November:

\$100-299 category

Viola Barthelme Creighton –donation in memory of Lewis/Sabina Barthelme; Lester/Mae Barthelme

Richard Cameron – donation in memory of Jud/Emma Cameron

A New Look for an Old House

Kathy Hahn Slankard lives in one of the older houses (over 100 years old) in Ste. Marie, and she wanted it to have a newer look. So she enlisted the help of her contractor-brother, **Larry Hahn**, and below are the results of his renovation – making her non-descript, house-front into a charming, welcoming porch with swing, probably the look it had when originally built in the late 1800's.



Kathy dug out the abstract and found that the property had been sold by the US government to Joseph Picquet in

1837. The house was probably built by John J. Rider, the town postmaster, when he married Veronica Gangloff in 1887 (by the way, he was 61; she was 26). In 1947, Julius and Celestine Schmidt bought the house and had it remodeled in 1949 (probably when the front porch was enclosed) by Joe Keller and Walter Shoffstall, Kathy's grandfather and uncle. Kathy bought it in 1972.



Transitions

Patrick Stone, Robinson, one of the seven children of Hamer and Martha Stone. Worked at Marathon Oil for over 35 years. Survived by wife Rhonda, two sons and one daughter and 3 grandchildren.

Dorothy “Dot” Huber, longtime Ste. Marie resident who with husband Lawrence (also deceased) was very active in the village and at St. Mary's.

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 quarterly 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 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.

Workdays at Foundation House
March 26 and 27, 2010

Save dates:

Sunday, May 30 – Garden Dedication/Art Reception
Saturday, Sept. 5 – Jim Litzelman Piano Concert

What Happened to the Log Cabin?

Lawrence Huber’s log cabin, the centerpiece of the Quasquicentennial (Sainte Marie’s 125th) in 1962, has a new home.

Upon his death, Huber gave the log cabin to **Jason Meyer**, owner of the **Buchanan Funeral Home** and a longtime Huber friend.

The log cabin has travelled around a bit since it was built originally by Casey, IL for an event in Cumberland County. After Ste. Marie used it for the Quasquicentennial, Huber bought it and moved it east of town to riverfront property owned by Louis and Bernadette Reis. A housepainter by trade, Huber liked to “camp out” at his cabin and snare fish from the Embarrass River. After many years, he moved the cabin behind his home in Ste. Marie. There it served as his workshop.

Jason and Lisa Meyer have now moved the cabin to a pond outside of Newton. “We are enjoying it as much as Lawrence did,” he says. “And we are thrilled to own it.”

Do you have a Sainte Marie story you would like to share? Write your own and/or contact Pat Reis (e-mail above).



*Volunteers at fall clean-up workday at the Foundation House: l-r (top row) **Glenda Reis Schwartz, Anita Reis Steber**; (2nd row) **Bob Helregel, Jim Young, Maxine Calvert**; (front) **Karen Reis Young**. Not shown: **Pat Reis, Anna Lou Stone, Ron Kirts, Maurice Calvert**.*

***Hartrich Meats** donated the lunch, as they do for most of our workdays!*