



Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's spring season 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

Foundation Update

In late November, our first fundraising letter was sent out to 70 people (former residents of Ste. Marie). The response was phenomenal; usually a 3 – 5% response is considered good. We heard from over 25%. Our average donation was \$100, with some generously giving much more than that.

To those who responded, thank you. To others, we'd still like to hear from you. If you're like me, the letter probably got buried at the bottom of a stack that I do intend to get to some day. But it's not too late. The Foundation is not going away. We have lots of projects that we need help with. Our address is: Sainte Marie Foundation, Box 186, Ste. Marie, IL 62459. All donors will be listed in our annual report in September.

Many donors also sent us names and addresses of friends and relatives. Thank you.

We are also receiving donations from Ste. Marie residents – a group from whom we did not specifically request money because the Foundation did not want to take away resources from the churches, American Legion, Community Club, etc. We know that some of our programs are going to require help from current residents (see "Come Back Home" brochure), and that will be more important to us than \$\$ at this time.

The newsletter is available at various businesses and the post office in Ste. Marie. Those who donated receive it by mail.

-Good news! In December, the Foundation received its 501(c)(3) status so that all donations are tax exempt as provided by law.

-See the enclosed brochure for our "Come Back Home" event on August 30, the Saturday before the Labor Day Picnic (so you can attend both). Co-chaired by **Maxine Calvert**, **Janet Hartrich** and **Kathy Yager**, the Foundation plans to make this an annual event. So if you can't make it this year, put it on the calendar for next year. It will be a fun-filled day

with kids' activities, a parade you won't forget, viewing of the "historical interviews" DVDs (see "An Ode to History" below) and tours of the town. Start off with a country lunch buffet (you won't need another meal that day!) at the Hideout and wind up your day at a low-key get-together at the American Legion that night. We need reservations for the lunch, so don't forget to send that to us ASAP. See you there.

-Thanks to **Allen Ritz** who suggested the idea for a "homecoming" event the Saturday before the Labor Day Picnic – so that former Ste. Marie folks could attend both events. We took the idea and ran with it. Allen sent a long letter saying how much he appreciated growing up in Ste. Marie and how happy he was to support the Foundation's efforts. Thanks for your kind words, Allen. We hope to see you Labor Day weekend.

Spring in Sainte Marie

It's spring in Ste. Marie and everyone is ready for it. "This has been one of our most trying winters," says village president **Bill Hartrich**. "Ice, snow, sleet – you name it; we've had it."

Since our last newsletter:

-**Eufala Bigard** celebrated her 80th birthday – and she still looks as great as ever.

-**Maynard and Alfreda Kaufman** celebrated their 40th anniversary with lots of friends and relatives who gathered at the Parish Hall.

-Our condolences to the family of **Bob Swisher** who passed away in early January. Bob was such an icon in Ste. Marie – he built and operated the gas station for many years, had a community garden that fed half the town, and just blended well with the community. We'll miss him.

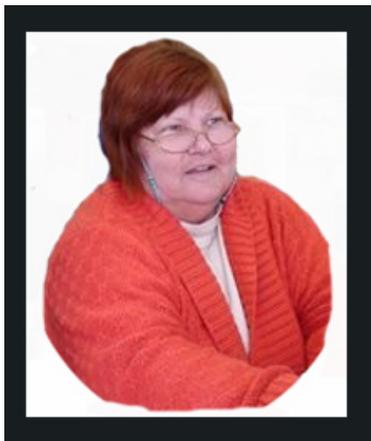
-**Julie Woodard** bought the George Litzelman home on Main Street. Julie and her parents, **Jack and Marge Thompson**, own The Gas Station across the street from her house.

-**Ron and Carolyn Kirts** hosted a full house over the Christmas holidays when all four of their children came home to celebrate in Sainte Marie.

-And speaking of the holidays, Sainte Marie's *Light Up the Village* campaign was the hit of Jasper County with lots of folks visiting the town and even driving over to The Bend to see the **Don and Bonnie Kraus'** fantastic display. The Foundation submitted a number of news releases and pictures to various newspapers, so the town received some great publicity about the event, even from the *Decatur Herald*. Thanks to **Maxine Calvert** and **Annette Lynch** who spearheaded the event, to the Community Club who sponsored the kids activities and refreshments at the Decorate the Great Tree event, and to all those who put up beautiful decorations.

An Ode to History

Kathy Burgund Yager, Ste. Marie's postmaster for over 15 years, harbors a secret ambition. She wants to



record the many stories about Ste. Marie that she has heard over the years from older residents.

"I kept thinking, 'Unless someone does something, these tales are going to be lost forever.' I failed to get to Lawrence 'Poss' Huber before he passed on," she

laments. "He had some great stories. And my parents did too. Oh, and I would have loved to have interviewed Country and Mildred Alblinger."

Well, Kathy is making up for lost time. In January, she did her first video interview with **Romonna Hunzinger Ochs**, a former Ste. Marie postmaster, who brought pix and talked about working as a "Rosie the Riveter" in Evansville during WW II.

With the help of ***Jerry Brown**, Toledo resident and a "Ken Burns wannabe," Kathy has plans to continue with the interviews through the summer. The Sainte Marie Foundation has pledged to pay Jerry's expenses

for travel, supplies and editing. The DVD's will be available for sale and viewing at the August 30 *Come Back Home* event.

The members of the Quilting group are Kathy's next interviewees, followed by such Ste. Marie stalwarts as **Marge Hartrich, Mary Jean Huss, Loretta Zuber, Josephine Spitzer, Dot Huber, Ed and Angela Hahn** and many others.

Since one of the Foundation's missions is to preserve Ste. Marie history, we are pleased to support Kathy's efforts. If there is anyone receiving this newsletter who would like to be part of this project, contact Kathy at P.O. Box 4, Ste. Marie, IL 62459.

**About Jerry Brown*

Jerry Brown, who is filming and editing the videos for the *Historical Interviews* done by Kathy Yager, retired from a Cape Canaveral, FL, job and moved back to his hometown of Toledo, IL. He restores photos, videos, film and audios. He can be reached at 217-276-1919 if you want some of your old photos or film remastered on DVDs. The Foundation is grateful for his help on this project.

Website Update



Foundation President Pat Reis (right) watches as Kourtney Blank adds final touches to the Foundation website.

Thanks to **Kourtney Schmidt Blank**, former Ste. Marie-ite and now a business teacher at NCHS, the Foundation's website is up and running. Packed with pictures taken by **Paul Mullinax, Maxine Calvert and Annette Lynch**, the site focuses not only on the Foundation, but also upon the pretty little hometown we all love. Check it out at www.saintemariefoundation.org.

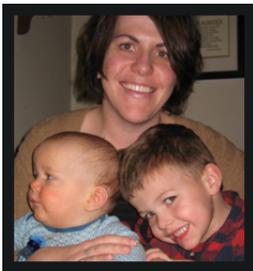
Faltemier Reunion July 6 at Parish Hall

Janet Faltemier Sitkewich sent a nice donation to the Foundation, ten addresses of people she wanted added to our mailing list, and a lovely note: “I heard from Sainte Marie residents that the new Christmas decorations were wonderful! Thank you.”

Janet added that the Faltemier family reunion includes the children and grandchildren of Leo and Maggie Faltemier, Stella and Ray Anderson, Martha and Hamer Stone, Buck and Elvira Faltemier and Paul and Regina Faltemier. There is an Open House for Sainte Marie residents Sunday, July 6th at 5 p.m. with homemade pie and ice cream.

Janet has been working on this for over two years and expects over 100 family members to attend, including her brothers who live in Surrey, England, and in Hawaii. Talk about our far-flung former Ste. Marie-ites!!

Where Oh Where Is Amanda?



That might be the question to ask if you know **Amanda Zuber Huber** who with Army-career husband, **Captain Steve Huber**, has lived in five different locations since 2001. Amanda and sons **Zeke** (4) and **Levi** (1) have been visiting her parents, **Sam and Linda**

Zuber, for most of the past year while Steve is stationed in Afghanistan.

“We do a lot of e-mailing and phone calls to stay in touch,” she says. In late summer, Amanda and sons will return to their home in Germany to reunite with Steve, who has a three-year commitment there. In the meantime, Amanda uses her folks’ address so that her mail doesn’t get lost.

Our Heritage Buildings

The Foundation is very concerned about the condition of a number of old, historic houses in town, specifically the old Barthelme home (most recently owned by **Serena Kaufman**), the **Lena Kirts’** house (*right*) and the old, three-story



house just south of it. We are working behind the scenes to rescue at least one of these homes. None are currently occupied by full-time residents.

By the way, thanks to owner **Don Alblinger** for replacing the roof on the old bank building in mid-November. This building is 102 years old and certainly a landmark in town.

Foundation President **Pat Reis** has invited **Mike Jackson**, chief architect of the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, to come to Ste. Marie and advise community leaders about reuse and recycling of older buildings.

Southeast Illinois Tourism

Check out the 2008 Southeast Illinois tourism booklet for Ste. Marie entries submitted by the Foundation, including the Come Back Home event and the Labor Day Picnic as well as the:

-Country Dance held every Monday night at the Parish Hall from 7 – 9 p.m. Volunteer musicians attend free; others pay \$2. It’s a gala evening that draws people from miles around. Worth a visit just to shake a leg in some line and circle dances!

-Ste. Marie Chicken Dinner, July 5, 2008, provided by the Sons of the American Legion, featuring Ste. Marie’s favorite grilled chicken (remember those July 4th celebrations?).

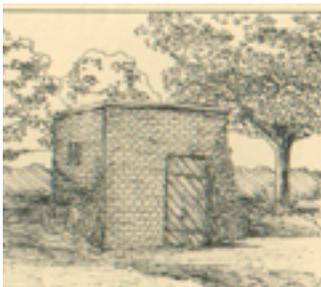
We hope to have pictures in next year’s tourism book, since we now know about the early deadline for submissions.

Did you know...

-that there is a ghost who lives at the Hideout? He is dressed in a Civil War uniform and sits quietly in the southeast corner of the room – at least that is what certain people claim. The Foundation hopes to do a bit more research on this story, but owner **Lisa Mabrey** has pictures and visits from local ghost clubs who supposedly support the claim. He never bothers the diners who flock to this popular restaurant/bar; he’s probably just happy to have the company!

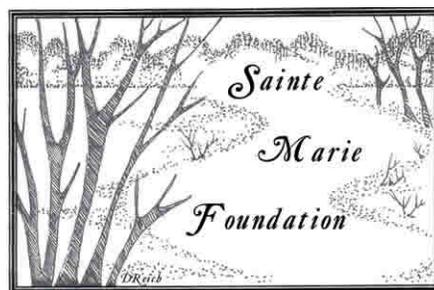
-that there is a stuffed, albino raccoon in the Hi-Benders Tavern, sitting on the top shelf above the bar? He’s been there for quite a while, so he’s no longer very white. Oh, well, at least he’s not a ghost.

-that certain people in town want to re-create the old calaboose (jail) behind Village Hall? Would you buy a brick? We would even put your name on it! Do you think this would be an appropriate historical project for the Foundation? Could it be billed as the “world’s smallest jail?” A drawing of the “Old Calaboose” by **Laura Mullinax Swan** is included in a box of greeting cards that will be for sale at the Come Back Home event on August 30.



An Artist’s Donation

Deborah Ritz Reich, owner of Bumblebee Inks in Newton, created a beautiful logo for the Foundation in recent months. Bordered by trees, our own Embarras River flows serenely through the design, reflecting the sense of stability that embodies our town.



Since trees and the river have always been an integral part of Ste. Marie history, this logo seemed very appropriate for a Foundation that also is “flowing” through present day happenings in Ste. Marie.

Visit Deborah, one of our Ste. Marie “alums,” at her studio at on the south side of the square in Newton or at www.bumblebeeinks.com. Her art is wonderful, from portraits to glass etching to colorful floor cloths. We thank Deb for the Foundation logo.

Don’t Miss – Ste. Marie’s Barbequed chicken on July 5 at the American Legion!

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.

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