



Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's spring season 2010

Volume 3, Issue 2

GALA EVENT

You are invited to the

Dedication of the Loretta Zuber Memorial Garden

and

Art Reception honoring Helen Keller Graham

*for her gift to the Foundation of
17 drawings of "Sainte Marie Ladies in Hats 1923"*

Sunday, May 30, 2 – 4 p.m.



Loretta Zuber
1909-2009



Helen Keller Graham
Local artist who grew up in Sainte Marie area

In keeping with the art dedication, everyone is invited **to wear hats, beautiful or outlandish or funny**. Event chair **Annette Hahn Kirts** is planning some fun activities, including hat contests and wonderful refreshments. We will be honoring our volunteers and reporting on the progress of the Foundation, including the museum.

Foundation House Update

The DCA Construction crew moved out of the house in mid-March, after finishing their work at Borgic Farms. They were good tenants for 8½ months, taking good care of the house through the winter, but we are happy to have the house back so we can continue the renovation work and move forward with our museum plans.

At workdays during the last weekend in March, volunteers cleaned, moved our furniture back into the house (we had most of it stored on the sun porch) and started the renovations we had abandoned last June when DCA moved in.

Larry Hahn and Ron Kirts installed the donated Murphy bed (*see picture*) in the bedroom next to the

dining room; now we can flip the bed up against the wall when we want to use that room for other purposes. Larry has also done some plastering work on the sun porch which is our next project.



Murphy bed up



Murphy bed down

For those interested in a stay at the house, we have two bedrooms downstairs, with a double bed in each, and two bedrooms upstairs (one with double bed; another with twin beds). In addition, there is a daybed in another open room – plenty of room for a family gathering!

The **Will Handzel** family (two adults, three children) and **Chris Young** family, (two adults, one child) stayed at the Foundation House during Easter weekend and had a wonderful time. Both commented that it was “really great to be able to stay in Ste. Marie even though Gram (Bernadette Reis) is gone.”

Call Sandy Hartrich 618-455-3575 or e-mail sjh@psbnewton.com to make a reservation.

Items We Need at the Foundation House

- Four or five drawer filing cabinet with lock
- Sheets for twin beds
- 6’ – 8’ sturdy ladder
- Small step stool/ladder (2 -3 steps)
- Large plastic trash can with lid



Anne Ochs and son Matthias sanded new plaster at the Foundation House at the March 26 workday.

Community Club Reorganizes

We salute the new officers of the Ste. Marie Community Club: **Mary Goss and Becky Catt**, co-presidents; **Julie Thompson Woodard**, secretary; **Janet Hartrich**, treasurer. The Club provided a wonderful Easter Egg Hunt, even though rain forced the event to be held inside at the Fire House. They also had a pork burger fundraiser in April and will host the village-wide Garage Sale on May 29 from 7 a.m. – 1 p.m. Call 455-3267 to sign up.

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Transitions

Martha Ruth Picquet Logan, 88

Martha was the last Picquet in Ste. Marie. Her father was James Marie Picquet, whose father was Xavier Picquet, whose father was Jacques Picquet, who led

the expedition that founded the village of Sainte Marie. She is survived by her son and two daughters (including the Foundation’s good friend, **Rita Logan** of Sainte Marie).

Mary Jean Ping Huss, 86

Mary Jean retired from the Sainte Marie State Bank two years ago, after 62 years on the job. Her sudden death surprised all of us, as she was such a mainstay in Ste. Marie. She is survived by son Ken of Effingham.

Bill Mattingly, 78

Bill worked with Ronnie Kirts for 27 years as his right-hand-man at Alblinger and Kirts Hardware.

Carol Cameron Martin, 71 – lived and worked as a nurse in Dallas/Fort Worth area for over 40 years. Two years ago, Carol wrote us to say that she still considered Ste. Marie her “precious childhood home” and how she loved to visit when she was back in Illinois. We are sorry that she did not have the opportunity to stay at the Foundation House, preserved for people like her who still want to return “home” for a visit. Survived by 2 daughters, 3 sons and 11 grandchildren, as well as her Cameron siblings – **Jud, Dick, Phil, Mike, and Peg.**

Three **Spitzer** family (Indpls.) deaths: **Richard "Dick" Hartman, 79; Richard "Rick" Wiltshire, 62; and Lawrence "Larry" Webber, 71.** Sadly, the Foundation’s friend, **Jeanne Hartman Webber**, lost both her husband (Larry), her brother and a cousin within three weekends. Dick Hartman was the son of **Aretta Spitzer Hartman**, daughter of Ste. Marie’s last blacksmith.

News Notes

Kurt Hartrich, OFM, cousin of mayor **Bill Hartrich**, is now Pastor of St. Peter’s in the Chicago Loop, 110 W. Madison. His father grew up in Ste. Marie but went to Indianapolis to finish the last two years of high school and never moved back home. Kurt loved to visit his grandmother, **Christina**, in Sainte Marie. “I always felt so welcome there, as if everyone knew I belonged there because of my dad and my grandma.” Kurt’s cousins are the children of **Paul and Clara Hartrich**, including SM mayor, **Bill Hartrich**. If you are in downtown Chicago, stop by St. Peter’s and say hello -- kfhartrich@yahoo.com or call 312-853-2417.

-**Lucie Hartrich** recently celebrated her 85th birthday, and her children honored her with a generous gift to the Foundation. Thank you, **Amy (Frohning), Mike, Mark, Tony and Hartrich Meats!**



(left) *Lucy with great-grandchild, Kaylee Lurkins.*

-**The Hideout** is still for sale, according to **Lisa Mabrey**, owner. "We took down the FOR SALE sign because people thought we were closed," says Lisa, "but we are still looking for a buyer, if you know of anyone." Lisa's son Jeremy and daughter-in-law Deb are managing the restaurant/bar for the time being.

The **Barthelme Family** is having a reunion the weekend of July 17-18. **Jean Barthelme Regas** and daughter **Margo** (Indpls.) and **Joyce Alblinger Mast** and family (Lakewood, CO) have already made reservations to stay at the Foundation House. We welcome you all back home!

Becca Hartrich, daughter of **Tony and Janet Hartrich** (Hartrich Meats) is getting married in Sainte Marie on June 26. At least eight of her Notre Dame girlfriends will be staying at the Foundation House for the weekend. That should be a grand time for all! Becca and future husband **Phil Ochs** work in the St. Louis area.

We Get Mail



-**Ken Stone**, Corpus Christi, TX writes: *I have traveled extensively around the country (and the world) and I can honestly say that there are very few towns the size of Sainte Marie that are as well kept and attractive as it is.*

When one gets to the age we are, we spend a lot of time reflecting on our life experiences, both the good and the bad. I, like most other SM residents of my age, grew up at the tail end of the Great Depression and watched men and women slightly older than us go off to World War II. We suffered through shortages of consumer goods and rationing. We had no indoor plumbing, but we had an outdoor privy.

On the plus side though, we had a vibrant church, and we got a great education in the elementary school. It is this great education that gave us a competitive advantage as we went on to high school and beyond. I shall forever be thankful for the nuns and lay teachers who worked so hard to educate us.

Ken sent a generous check and told us to "keep up the good work." If you want to see his very impressive background, google **Kenneth E. Stone** (Iowa University Emeritus Professor).

Chuck Martin (Byron, IL) writes: ...*Great (winter) newsletter. My wife, Mary Jo (Spitzer) really enjoys these communications from you also. Mary Jo and I are interested in buying a small parcel of land in the Ste. Marie area....40-60 acres, suitable for quail hunting. If you hear of anyone wishing to sell something like that, please let me know. Call Chuck at 815-234-8704.*

-**Vinnie and June Keller Zuber** (Assumption, IL) sent a check for the plaque that will mark the Loretta Zuber Memorial Garden in front of the Foundation House and wrote: *Thanks to everyone for all of the hard work that has been done to get this project completed.* Foundation volunteers planted the garden, based on a landscape design created by **Shandi Meiszner of Meiszner Landscape Design, Robinson, IL.**

Workday March 26, 2010

Gloria Zuber Schwartz (left) won the prize for traveling the longest distance, coming from Belleville



to work all day at the Foundation House. Plus she even brought her sister-in-law, **Bertie Zuber** (Newton) (right), who washed dishes and cabinets for hours and could still laugh with us at the

end of the day! Other volunteers that weekend were **Don Bogard** (Robinson), **Anita Reis Steber** (Olney), **Anne Ochs** and son **Matthias, Ron and Carolyn Kirts, Maurice and Maxine Calvert, Anna Lou Stone** and **Bob Helregel**. Great lunch too from **Hartrichs Meats**. Thanks also to **Bill Hartrich** and **Bob Frye** for moving "stuff" and to **John Michl** and **Jack Thompson** for gas repair.

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,
May 28 - 29, 2010

September 4 - Piano Concert

The Sainte Marie Foundation is proud to present one of Sainte Marie’s finest – **Jim Litzelman**, son of **Donald and Christine Litzelman**. While growing up near our little village, Jim played the organ at St. Mary’s and went on to become a well-known pianist and teacher.

Dr. Litzelman is currently director of the graduate program in piano pedagogy at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and an independent music teacher in Arlington, VA. He is active as a soloist, collaborative artist, and lecturer, having performed and lectured in the United States, Europe, China, Russia and Mexico.



Truly a world traveler and performer, *he now comes back to perform in his little hometown to benefit the Sainte Marie Foundation.* The concert will be held in St. Mary’s Church at 2 p.m. with a reception afterwards at the Foundation House. Advance tickets are \$10 adults; \$5 children under 12 (\$2 more per

ticket if purchased at door). We will start selling tickets in late May. More details to follow.

Update on Heath Grant

During March and April, Foundation directors were busy collecting documents/pictures that are being copied or enlarged or both for display at the Foundation House. **Mike Hartrich** met with **Rita Logan** and selected pictures from her Picquet (founding family) collection. **Maxine Calvert** and **Pat Reis** visited the Eastern Illinois University Print Shop to have the copies made and laminated.

Paid for by the \$2000 grant the Foundation received from the **Mary Heath Foundation** (Robinson), the pictures will be framed and hung in various rooms at the Foundation House, the beginnings of our planned museum.

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.