



Sainte Marie Foundation News

Celebrating our special hometown Fall 2025

Volume 18 Issue 2

Sainte Marie American Legion Unit 932
Auxiliary
Fall Harvest Stew
Sunday, November 2, 2025
Serving starts at 4 PM

\$5 bowl
\$25 a gallon
Desserts are extra
Dine in or carry out

Bring your own (non-glass) container for carry out
Drinks will be available for sale @ the bar
The Auxiliary will be having a 50/50 raffle
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE



Foundation House Museum Open House

The Sainte Marie Foundation House and Museum will be open the first Sunday of the month from 1-3. Come and see the major improvements to the house. See special story about the changes on the next page.

Contact Mike Hartrich by email if you would like to arrange a different time to look inside.

mdhartrich@hotmail.com

Sainte Marie Map

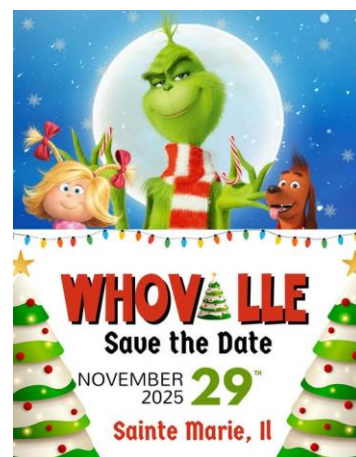


1950-1970

After multiple phone calls, discussions, (maybe a few arguments?), and months of work, a group of former, and current, Sainte Marie citizens completed a wonderful map of how the town appeared during the years of 1950-1970. It really is incredible to see! One could spend hours looking at the residences and finding names you haven't thought about since childhood!

Thank you to all who participated in this project that was headed by Janet Faltemier Sitkewich, Bonnie Hunzinger Petty, Becky Sheridan, Mike Hartrich, and many others.

It is on display at the Foundation House.



The Times They Are A-Changin’

Who says that everything stays the same in the little village of Sainte Marie? Sometime change is necessary- like at the Sainte Marie Foundation House!

We have had some huge improvements to the grand old lady this summer! Due to some VERY generous donations to the Foundation from the estate of Pat Reis, Glenn and Brenda Picquet, and Jeff Mitchell, we have been able to put in new LVP throughout the house and install new windows in the south facing sunroom.

Larry and Dolores Hahn spent several weeks this extremely hot and humid summer putting in the floors, moving things around, and repairing other items they found that needed fixing along the way. If you want things done correctly, that duo will exceed expectations. The guys at D M Manufacturing helped out by carrying the LVP materials up the stairs to the second floor. Some of the Hartrich Meats crew and Mike Hartich helped move the very heavy piano on the bottom floor.

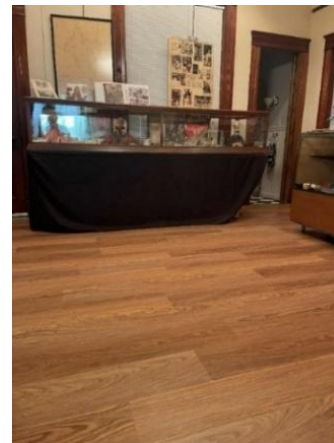


DM Manufacturing Crew Helped carry the heavy LVP Flooring upstairs

John Geltz and crew put in much needed new windows in the sunroom. We plan to turn the sunroom into an area where people can dig through our growing collection of genealogical papers. A recent addition to our collection is this beautiful mural of the Blessed Virgin Mary given to us by St. Mary's Church.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, to our wonderful donors, volunteers, Larry and Dolores, John Geltz and crew, and D M Manufacturing for making our place shine! Come and take a tour - it is worth the time.

The house is open the first Sunday of the month from 1-3 pm or contact Mike at mdhartrich@hotmail.com.



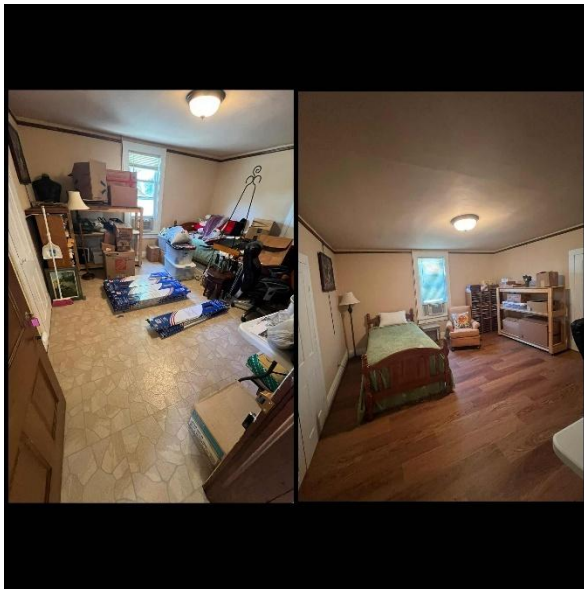
New LVP flooring in the Museum



**Larry and Dolores Hahn installing
upstairs flooring**



John Geltz crew installing new windows in sunroom



Before After
The computer room upstairs



Front Porch Side Door



New Windows in Sun Room

**TRICK or TREAT NIGHT for Sainte Marie
will be Friday, October 31 from 5pm-8pm.
(Houses with porch lights on) 🎃🎃🎃**

Carrying on the Sainte Marie Tradition of Beautiful Yards



The landscaping around the house is also looking top notch thanks to our volunteer and Sainte Marie Foundation Board Member, Norma Ochs. Norma spends considerable time taking care of the plantings.



She and her husband, Dave, have also painted the ramp, porch, and the trim around windows that needed it.

Each Spring, she organizes a cleanup crew to help uncover and trim all the beds after their long winter's rest. She does the same each Fall as the plants are readied for the winter. Thank you for all you do, Norma! Notice there is a Fall cleanup coming on October 19th. We would love the help!



LANDSCAPING

Autumn Clean Up Event at Ste. Marie
Foundation House, October 19th, 1PM
Bring gloves and clippers if you have them.

All help is welcome!

Call Norma 618-554-2536 with questions

THANK YOU

Electric Power in Sainte Marie

In August, 1921, a special election was called to vote on electricity for the Village of Sainte Marie. The election was passed by a vote of two to one.

In the fall of 1922 the plant was installed in a brick building now occupied by Hartrich's grocery.

It was a D. C. plant with motor-charged batteries. Power was limited. Homemakers were told to use their electric washing machine only on Mondays. Tuesday was ironing day. The motors were run continuously on those days to provide power. Sam Barker was plant engineer. Mr. Barker took his job so seriously there were nights when he slept at the plant.

Street lights were only on until 11 P. M., at which time all good citizens were supposed to be off the streets and at home for the night.

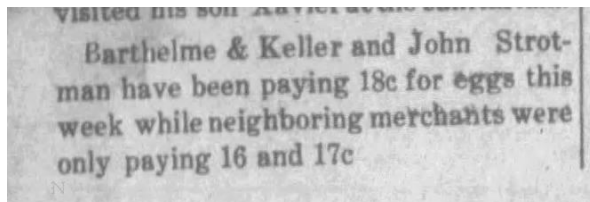
Ireneus Barthelme was mayor at the time. This sort of electric power went on for seven years. Then Central Illinois Public Service Co., power service came into the county.

Again, the village voted on electric power for the village. Again, it passed by a good margin.

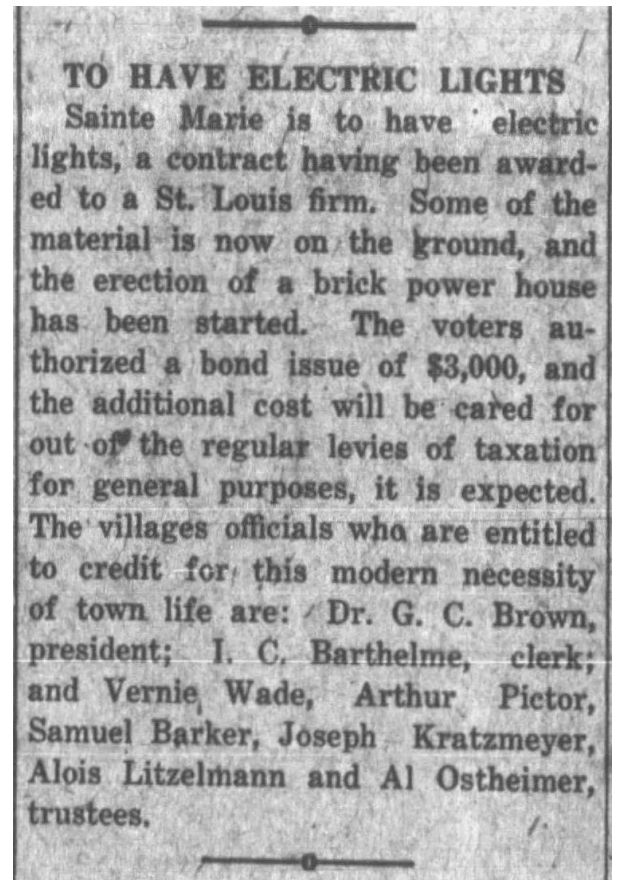
C. I. P. S., was contracted to build power lines to furnish electric power for the village. Power lines, like the city water works, added much to the lives of the people.

Hallick Shryock was mayor at this time and E. J. Gangloff village clerk. Of all the fine work Mr. Gangloff did on the Village Board, this was his last contract written.

Taken from the Sainte Marie Sesquicentennial Book written by Mrs. Mayme Hartrich.



Sainte Marie Tribune 05-14-1915



Former home of the Sainte Marie Electric Plant

(Former Hartrich Grocery)



Visit Cork and Pork Festival FB Page

Cork and Pork Distribution

Funds from the successful Cork and Pork Festival were recently distributed to area groups and organizations. Over \$50,000 was requested from \$40,000 available funds. One fund request is still pending. Over \$297,000 has been given to community groups and projects over the years. Cork and Pork Festival will take a break next year as Jasper County/Sainte Marie will be in full 250th USA Birthday mode the week before. Plan on seeing us at the next Festival in 2027.

\$5000 – Blessings in a Backpack – Jasper County
 \$1000 – Family Life Center – Newton – Concrete work
 \$1500 – FBLA (Formally Business Club) – State Convention
 \$2000 – HCE – Toys for Kids
 \$2000 – Jasper County Cancer Support Fund
 \$3000 – Jasper County Home Front
 \$1000 – Jasper County Honey Do Ministry
 \$1000 – Jasper County Ministerial Assn.
 \$1500 – JC First – Back to School help for kids
 \$2000 – Leah's House Christ-Centered Healing Home
 \$1000 – Jasper Co. Music Boosters – Towards needed instruments
 \$1000 – NCHS Football Team – Team & Coaches came to help with setup and tear down of Cork & Pork –Thank you
 \$1000 – NCHS Theatre – Towards new microphone systems
 \$500 – JCEA – Scholarship
 \$500 – NCHS BETA Club (Formally Honor Society) – Scholarship
 \$500 – NCHS Student Council – Towards State Convention

\$500 – Newton – Jasper County Museum – Help with moving expenses

\$1000 – ROW #12 ASSIST

\$500 – Sainte Marie Community Club – Whoville

\$3000 – Sainte Marie Foundation –The Cork & Pork Festival was originally started as a fund raiser for the Foundation

\$2000 – St Thomas School – Technology Fund

\$500 – Saved by Grace Animal Shelter – Help with spaying and neutering for dogs and cats

\$500 – Shop with a Cop – Jasper Co. Sheriff

\$850 – Sunrise Youth Soccer – Portable Score Board

\$1000 – Team of Mercy – Organization that helps those affected by suicide

\$125 – Flowers on the Square (Newton) for 2026

\$500 – Helpful Little Hands 4-H Club – Help with cleanup

\$125 – Sainte Marie Foundation Flower Basket Project



Judy Millsap, representing HCE Toys for Kids accepts Cork and Pork donation from Bob Zuber



Heather Martin of ROE #12 Assist accepts check from Dolores Hahn representing Cork and Pork Festival



Dolores Hahn presents Cork and Pork funding to Jill Bierman and students representing St. Thomas School. The funds will be used to purchase technology.

Transitions



**Madonna (Donna) Zwilling Boehl, 68
October 17, 1956 – June 24, 2025**

Donna was a very active Bend and Sainte Marie community member. She was one of the founding members of The Bend Community Club. She is survived by husband Norman, son, Bruce (Jenna), daughters Sharon and Sarah, and three grandchildren. She is also survived by seven siblings and many siblings-in-law.

She was preceded in death by her parents, mother and father-in-law, and several brothers-in-law.



**Christine Zumbahlen Litzelman, 82
January 10, 1943 – July 27, 2025**

Christine was born and raised Jasper County, and moved to Sainte Marie when she married her late husband, Don, in 1962. She was involved in many of the activities in the Sainte Marie community.

She is survived by her children Jim, Cheryl, Susan, and Tony, nine grandchildren, and three great grandchildren. She is also survived by three siblings.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, and mother-in-law and father-in-law.



**Victoria (Vicki) Sheridan Kocher, 77
January 29, 1948 – August 28, 2025**

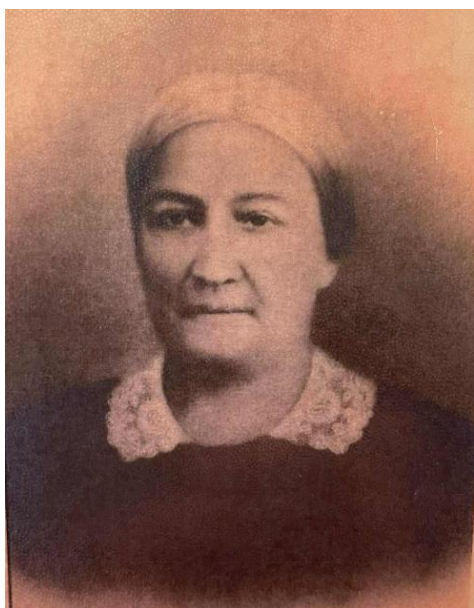
Vicki was a lifelong Sainte Marie resident and was very involved in community activities. She leaves behind sons Brent and Rodney, and daughter, Jodi, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Her four sisters Becky, Jayne, Cindy, and Sally also survive.

She was preceded in death by her husband Ben and parents Lenoard (Len) and Olivia (Leve) Barthelme Sheridan, parents-in-law, and a brother-in-law, Bob Cohorst.

Historical Documents Gift

Ever wonder how Sainte Marie had its start? You may know the story of the group of colonists that gathered together on the knoll and dedicated the town to the Blessed Mary Virgin. You may even know Joseph Picquet rode throughout the area trying to find the perfect place for a new settlement. Sainte Marie's original name...you got it...Colonie des Freres! But did you know that a group of family members formed a corporation spelling out the desired plan and outcomes of a new home in the United States?

The Sainte Marie Foundation recently received a very generous gift of this original French document and other historic documents from the great-great granddaughter of Mdme. M. Josephine Philippine Hartrich Willien, Sara Willien Porter.

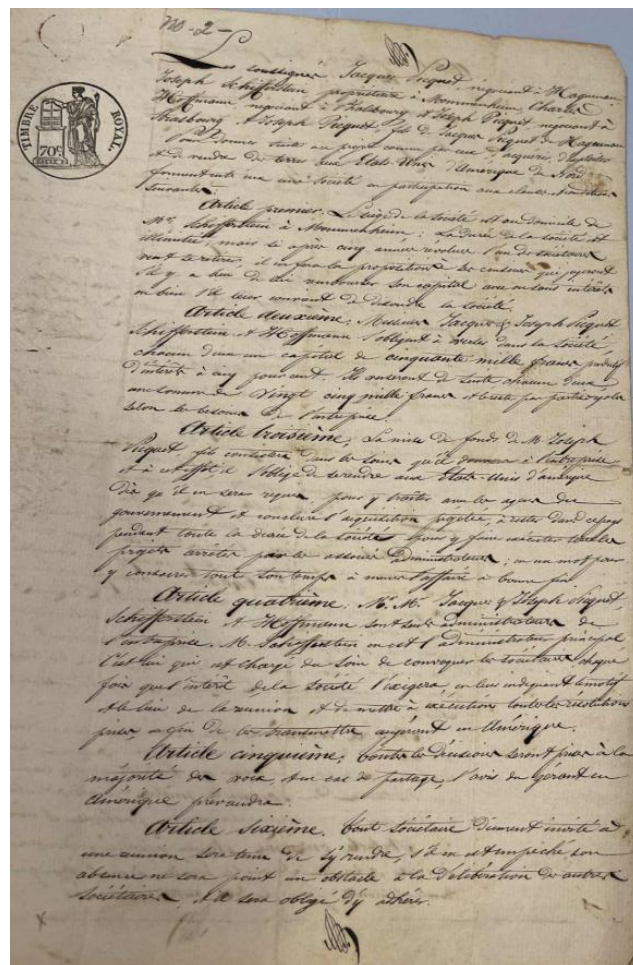


**Mdme. Marie Josephine Philippine
Hartrich Willien**

The five members of the group who formed the organization were Joseph Picquet, Sr., Theodore Schifferstein, Jacques Picquet, Mr. Huffman, and Joseph Picquet. Each member besides young Joseph put 50,000 francs towards the venture. Joseph's contribution was scouting the land and reporting back to the group. It is believed Mdme. Willien, sister of Theodore Hartrich, was given 1/2 of

Schifferstein's stock in the group due to the fact she had been recently widowed and had a small son to care for. Her parents had died several years before, and two of her three brothers were planning a move to the United States with the aforementioned group. Apparently since she was the only woman, she became the record and note keeper. This invaluable document was among the items she passed down through the family.

Her careful record keeping allowed us the privilege of being able to view the document and understand why and how the town of Sainte Marie was born. Few towns have this kind of documentation. We are in the process of making enlarged copies of this document and other documents to display in the Foundation House for all to view and enjoy. Thank you to Mrs. Sara Willien Porter for this gift.



**Document outlining the terms and goals
of the founding of our Village**

New Gravestone for Sainte Marie Pioneer

Mdme. Marie Josephine Philippine Hartrich Willien (see above article) and four year old son, Leon, were some of the first citizens of the newly formed village, arriving in New York in 1844 with her younger brother, Theodore. She and her young son lived in the current Foundation House. At that time there were four rooms in the house. In the 1860 census, they are shown to live with her brother, Ferdinand. She also spent some time in Terre Haute where her granddaughter attended school and her son was a founding doctor of St. Mary's Hospital.

Records show she was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery, but no grave marker was present. Mike Hartrich helped his cousin, Sara Willien Porter, locally by working to getting a new stone. After some investigation, it was determined there was room for a marker next to the gravestone belonging to her two brothers and other family members. Mrs. Porter was pleased to place the stone in her great-great grandmother's memory.



Mike Hartrich is shown with the new gravestone and that of the original Hartrich family.



New gravestone purchased for Mdme. Willien

Sainte Marie to Hold Jasper County's 250th Celebration



The new 250 America flag joins the United States flag and the POW MIA flag flying at the American Legion Post 932. A county wide celebration of our nation's 250th will be held on July 3, 2026 in Sainte Marie. We would love to have you join us!

Sainte Marie Flower Baskets Update

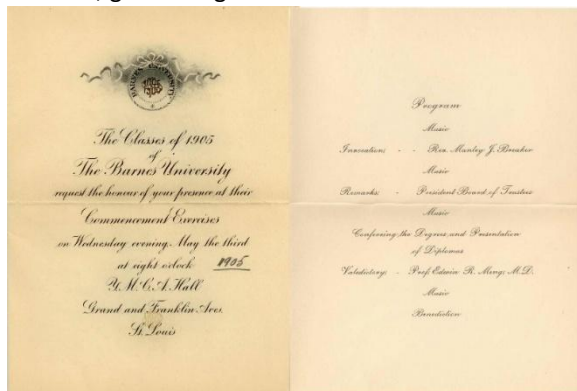


The flower baskets around town faced some very challenging weather extremes this year and were taken down earlier than in years past. We want to thank all of our generous donors and our dedicated watering crew.

Doctor Grover Cleveland Brown and Georgiana (Babe) Spitzer Brown

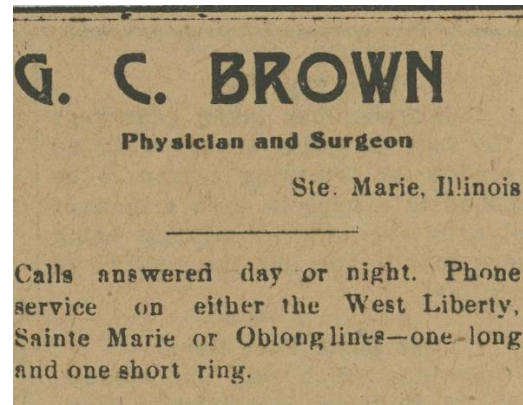


Born in 1895, Grover Cleveland Brown became a hometown hero to the people of Sainte Marie. He was a beloved physician who took care of village families from birth to death. In the farming community, he delivered almost every child for twenty-five years, took care of the sick and injured, and helped those who were dying transition. Grover was born in Smallwood Township to Thomas Jefferson and Priscilla Bridges Brown. He had an older brother and an older sister. He attended Brown school, graduating there in 1901 at the age of 16. He went from there to Barnes Medical College in St. Louis, graduating in 1905.



Dr. Brown's Graduation Ceremony announcement from Barnes University 1905

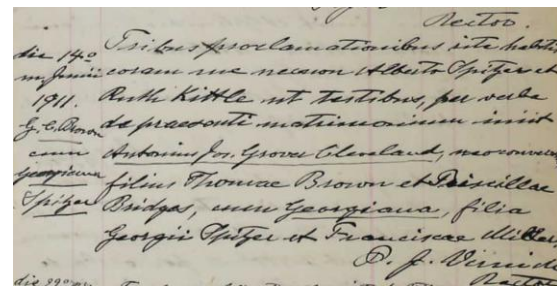
Records have not been located as to what he did for the next four years, but it is assumed he practiced medicine nearby. In 1909, he came to Sainte Marie



to take over the practice of Dr. Wenz who was moving his practice to Champaign. His medical office was in the space previously occupied by Dr. A. Fehrenbacher (Dentist) on Embarras Street. It later was known as Tony's Barber Shop. And there he stayed for the next 24 years.

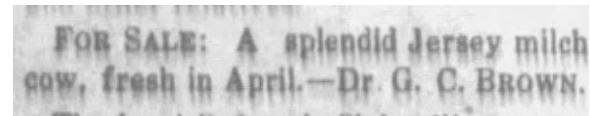
The 1910 census showed that he was a boarder at the local Geltz Hotel along with Paul Weber who worked as a bartender. (see side story below)

In June of 1911, Dr. Brown married Georgiana (Babe) Spitzer, a Sainte Marie girl. They did not have any children.



Marriage License of Dr. Brown and Georgiana Spitzer June 14, 1911

The couple settled down to the life of a village doctor attended to the needs of his patients. By 1930, Babe's 82 year old mother, Frances Spitzer, lived with them.



DIPHTHERIA IN THE SOUTH BEND

C. W. Horn Family Put
Under Quarantine

The first case of diphtheria reported in this township came from the South Bend neighborhood Thursday. The Board of Health comprising Dr. G. C. Brown, Supervisor Louis Barthelme, Town Clerk Geo. Schackman and Assessor C. E. Lamotte took immediate action and quarantined the afflicted family, C. W. Horn, Friday. A four year child died that same evening.

No new cases have been reported since then and it is to be hoped that the prompt action of the Board of Health together with the co-operation of the citizens in that neighborhood the disease may be stamped out at once.

Another Case of Rabies

A large shepherd dog belonging to Al Woodard, of east of town, which had bitten several dogs and some livestock southeast of town, and presumably suffering with rabies, was killed by Jacob Wade Wednesday.

From the dog's strange actions it was concluded that it was affected with hydrophobia. Dr. G. C. Brown has sent the head to the Pasteur-institution at Chicago to be examined.

Dr. G. C. Brown purchased from Furgeson & White, of Newton, a new Maxwell touring automobile the first of the week.

Open Air Colony Started at Holy Name of Mary Hospital

Tuberculars to Receive Treatment at Local Institution,
Proposed \$25,000 Building to be Built in Near Future.
Sisters of Charity in Charge

The director of the Holy Name of Mary Hospital has announced that their institution here has been opened to tubercular patients and that they will receive them at any time hence.

The opening of the hospital particularly for patients with tuberculosis was the ceding to the wishes of numerous affected people for a place where the environment and care would be such that they could take the most beneficial treatment, unhampered.

The hospital is conducted by the Sisters of St. Francis and is affiliated with St. John's hospital of Springfield and St. Anthony's hospital of Effingham. It is situated in the northwest part of town in a beautiful pine and forest grove near the banks of the Embarras river, where is found that retirement, quiet and ideal surroundings which is congenial for the treatment of tuberculosis. The rooms are all amply large, well ventilated, and are all arranged so as to receive an abundance of sunlight, and are heated by

an excellent system of steam-heating. Each floor has a lavatory and bath. Large screened porches on the north and south of the building afford patients an opportunity to remain in the open air at all times regardless of weather conditions. Concrete walks through the grove can be utilized for exercising. The food is of the freshest and best, coming from the dairy and farm conducted in connection with the hospital.

The capacity of the institution is at present limited, but it is the intention of the management to build in the near future a \$25,000 modern fire proof building for the accommodation of the increase.

The treatment given will be the same that is followed at most open air sanitariums and colonies. The patients will be under the care of Dr. G. C. Brown and a corps of efficient trained nurses.

In the short time the institution has been opened for tubercular patients several have already applied and are now receiving treatment.

OFFICIAL BALLOT

For an Election to be Held Tuesday, April 1, 1913
SAINTE MARIE TOWNSHIP
JASPER COUNTY, ILLINOIS

☐ DEMOCRATIC	☐ REPUBLICAN
☐ For Supervisor LEWIS BARTHELME	☐ For Supervisor JAMES LITZELMAN
☐ For Commissioner of Highways JACOB OCHS	☐ For Commissioner of Highways W. E. SLOAN
☐ For Justices of the Peace (Two to elect) FRANK BARTLEY	☐ For Justices of the Peace (Two to elect)
☐ JOHN B. SCHUCH	
☐ For Constables (Two to elect) W. F. WADE	☐ For Constables (Two to elect)
☐ JOSEPH BURGUND	
☐ For Poundmasters (Five to elect) JOHN GREGORY	☐ For Poundmasters (Five to elect)
☐ G. C. BROWN	
☐ A. C. BOLANDER	
☐	

The next game here will be tomorrow (Saturday) when the local cross bats with Wakefield. Judging from what we hear this should be a close game. Here it is: Wakefield beat Noble 13 to 3, the same team that our boys shut-out, 9 to 0. Compare and figure Drs Brown and Fehrenbacher will be at the game to "root" for their old home team and they may bet on 'em too. Let's all make this Brown-Fehrenbacher Day and go to the game as a fitting tribute to the boys that once from Wakefield came.

In 1933, The governor of Illinois at the time, Henry Horner, appointed Dr. Brown as the district health superintendent for seven area counties. Two years after working in the large south central region of Illinois, Dr. Brown was appointed as the head of the state hospital in Jacksonville, IL. He, Babe, and her mother moved to the town immediately after Dr. Brown assumed management of the hospital. Upon their departure a large basket dinner was given in their honor for the many years of service the good doctor had given to the community. Many tributes and accolades were given to Dr. and Mrs. Brown as well as watches and rosaries.

BROWN GETS NEW JOB

Dr. G. C. Brown of Jasper county, formerly in the State and Federal health service, has been appointed managing officer of the Jacksonville State hospital, effective August 1. Dr. Brown will succeed the late Dr. Clair Drake.

MRS. FRANCES SPITZER DIES AT HOME OF HER DAUGHTER

Ste. Marie, Ill., Nov. 25.—Mrs. Frances Miller Spitzer, for most of her life until about two years ago a resident of Ste. Marie, passed away at the home of her daughter, Mrs. G. C. Brown, at Jacksonville, Sunday, following an extended illness. She was born in Ste. Marie, Dec. 2, 1848.

She is survived by a son, Albert Spitzer, and the daughter, Mrs. Brown.

The funeral was held in Ste. Marie yesterday with burial in the parish cemetery beside her husband.

Side story - During this period of time, Route 130 was being built connecting nearby towns. Calling on his friendship with the governor, the Sainte Marie Spur road, officially known as Route 130-A was born. There had been no plans for this highway until the good doctor called in a favor! This was a very lucky break for the citizens of Sainte Marie! A highway to connect them to other nearby towns was a great advancement for our town.

Not only did Dr. Brown make sure we had better roads, he was also involved in city government and was a major factor in getting electricity to Sainte Marie.

STE. MARIE MAN DISTRICT HEALTH SUPERINTENDENT

Newton, Ill., Feb. 4.—Dr. G. C. Brown of Sainte Marie has been notified by Governor Henry Horner of his appointment as district health superintendent. He succeeds Dr. Victor M. Bryan of St. Francisville, who has held the position for the past several years.

Dr. Brown will supervise state health department activities in the counties of Clark, Clay, Crawford, Cumberland, Jasper, Lawrence and Richland. His appointment became effective Wednesday, Feb. 1.



Dr. Brown and Babe stayed in Jacksonville for a little over five years, when in 1941 they decided to move back to Jasper County as Dr. Brown wanted to finish out his medical career there.

Things did not go as planned, though. In 1943, at the age of 58, he left again to serve in Peoria at the Department of Health during WWII. The couple again returned to Sainte Marie for a short period until he was commissioned as a captain in the U.S. Medical Corps, serving at a hospital in Sheridan, WY. Upon the completion of his service in 1946, he and Babe ventured to Anna, IL so Dr. Brown could head up the state hospital there.



Dr. Grover Cleveland Brown died in November 1958. His many years of service to the village of Sainte Marie and places beyond were looked upon with gratitude and respect. Besides a doctor, he was also a leader, farmer, and baseball fan. Dr. Brown will long be remembered for his impact on our community. His wife, Georgiana died in 1964. They are both buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.



Dr. G. C. Brown
STE. MARIE — Military rites will be conducted for Dr. G. C. Brown, 73, Ste. Marie, at Ste. Mary's Catholic church in Ste. Marie, Wednesday at 9 a.m., with burial in the church cemetery. Officiating will be Rev. George Windsor, celebrant, Rev. Maurice Gavin, deacon, and Rev. Michael Noonan, sub-deacon. The rosary will be recited at 7:30 p.m. today at Parker funeral home in Newton, where friends may call.

**Medical Equipment from Dr. Brown's office
on display at
Sainte Marie Foundation House**



**Window Art at Sainte Marie State Bank
by Mary Lybarger**

**As promised – A Story
Within a Story!**

Upon looking at historical reports for information about Dr Brown, I noticed in the 1910 Census that he was not the only boarder; there was also a 17-year-old fellow named Paul Weber. His occupation was listed as bartender. I was curious about him as I didn't recall any Webers living in town. I looked at the census records for him from 1920 and he was now living in Newton and had married...and his wife's name was Lena. Hmm...there was a Lena Geltz who was a daughter of Frank and Mary Geltz – they owned the hotel where he had stayed for a while. Apparently, a budding romance occurred between the 17-year-olds and they were married in 1915. They were the parents of three sons: Donald, Ray, and David.

Paul was quite the entrepreneur. During his time in Sainte Marie, he owned a laundry service and bought several pool halls and restaurants. His next position was that of manager of the Farm Union Station at Boos Station according to his WWI draft registration card. Paul then obtained a job as an assistant cashier at Peoples State Bank. He moved up the ranks of the bank, retiring as vice president. He and Lena were both killed in a tragic head-on car accident in 1964, a few weeks after their 49th wedding anniversary.

