



Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's fall season 2014

Volume 7, Issue 4

MUSEUM NOW OPEN

First Sunday of the Month

1 -3 p.m.

Or by special appointment for families/groups 618-455-3153

Free to all!

Please Join Us for Special Exhibit Programs

The Music of War

Sunday, Nov. 16 (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE)

1 p.m. at the American Legion Post 932 upstairs.

Free

Music played an important role during World Wars I and II. Popular songs stirred citizens to enlist and support each of these wars. Composers led the way, pouring out song after song that expressed the separation and longing that families experienced during the time their loved ones were away.



Join **Nikki Hartrich**, (at left) along with her husband **Don**, in exploring this musical journey. We may even sing a bit! Thanks to the **American Legion Post 932** family of organizations for co-hosting this program in recognition of Veterans Day. Refreshments provided.

Book Review: *Across Five Aprils*

Sunday, Feb. 8, 1 p.m. at Foundation House - Free

This book by Jasper County author Irene Hunt covers a local family's involvement in the Civil War. We will also discuss how residents of Sainte Marie were involved, especially the Picquet family. Presenter **Mike Hartrich**, Foundation vice president and co-curator of the military exhibit, is a retired history and English teacher and former athletic director at Newton Community High School.

Sunday, May 31, 2015, 1 p.m.

Ken Stone Talks about Vietnam (more details to come)

The Foundation Loses A Great Friend

Maurice Calvert, 82, great friend and supporter of the Sainte Marie Foundation, lost his battle with prostate cancer in late July. The Foundation Board honored



Maurice and his wife **Maxine** (a founding Board member) at the Grand Opening on Aug. 30 by naming the sun porch **The Calvert Sun Porch** in their honor. Of all the rooms at the Foundation House that the couple worked on, the Sun Porch was their favorite. Maurice caulked, cleaned, repaired and painted the 14

windows. He and Maxine refinished the floor, sanding it until it gleamed. They hung wallpaper and painted, stained the wooden panels and trim – and just generally made the porch into a wonderful room that everyone loves. Their last donation this summer was \$\$ to buy special solar shades. We shall miss this caring man whom everyone loved. We thank Maxine for naming the Foundation as a recipient of Maurice's memorials, resulting in a donation of over \$1400. Thanks to his sister **Earlean Calvert Yost** (FL) for donating \$200 to the final renovation of the Sun Porch in Maurice and Maxine's honor. Also survived by children, **Scott (Lynn)** and **Dawn Ann (Marvin Ochs)**, grandchildren **Tori and Eric**.

Sainte Marie Golfers Help Foundation

There's a group of golfers in and around Ste. Marie who gather at a nearby golf course on a summer Sunday and play a lively round of golf. Each year the group collects funds from the golfers to give to a local charitable organization. Thank you, golfers, for donating over \$500 to the Sainte Marie Foundation this year!

New Security System Installed at Foundation House

The Foundation Board recently decided that our locks were not adequate to protect everything we now have in the House, so a Security System has been installed. It includes a smoke alarm feature to supplement the smoke alarms we now have at the House. We are feeling more comfortable with borrowing so many precious objects from our supporters with this new system.



Pix: The Ste. Marie Post 932 Color Guard marches onto the Foundation House grounds for the Grand Opening ceremony on Aug. 30th. (Photo by Willard Fugate.)

The Military Exhibit at the Foundation House

We interviewed **Mike Hartrich** and **Donna Keller**, the co-curators of this first exhibit at our new museum at the Foundation House, shortly after the very successful Grand Opening on August 30.

1. You started setting up this exhibit in early May. Did the final result end up as you planned?

Mike and Donna: Better than planned. People were so generous with what they loaned to us. The exhibit just got better and better as we went along.

2. What is the “must see “ of this exhibit?

Mike: The World War II items are a “must see.” For example, **Gene Picquet**, son of **Jim and Sylvia Picquet**, lied about his age to get into the military. We have his induction papers, where he claimed to be 19. His birth certificate says he was only 16. And there are so many personal things: my mother’s wedding dress, made out of parachute silk after the war; medals and ribbons of all sorts, such as good conduct medals, two Purple Hearts (**Gerald Geltz and Norman Copper**); uniforms that we never knew people had.... The list goes on and on. Most of these items are “on loan” and will be returned. So this is an exhibit that you may never see again. See it before the end of May!



Pix: People of all ages loved looking at the items in the military exhibit display cases.

3. How did you find what you wanted?

Mike: It was always a surprise. People from the SM area searched their closets and storage areas and showed up

with all kinds of stuff. For example, **John Lybarger** brought in C-rations from Vietnam as well as uniforms, paper money and coins, good luck bracelets (that turned out not to bring much good luck), helmets, a cigarette lighter, etc. John was our greatest source of Vietnam memorabilia, but **Bob Barthelme** brought Vietnamese sandals made from Jeep tires! And the pictures people found – just amazing.

Donna: The DVD made by **Annette Lynch** was immensely popular, as were the notebooks that contain pictures. There were always people gathered around that table, looking at the three sets of notebooks that were organized by year or the alphabetical one where

someone could look up a friend or relative by name.



Pix: (l-r) Neal Gassman, Salt Lake City, UT. and his brother, Jim Gassman, Olney, IL examine the military pictures in the notebooks.

Thanks to **Teresa Hartrich** for organizing those notebooks; they were a lot of work!

The pictures are beautiful, enhanced by the work of **Annette Lynch** and her Photoshop expertise.

4. Tell us about some of the surprises.

Mike: One in particular that many people enjoyed (only available during the grand opening weekend) was the restored 1944 Willys Jeep belonging to **Jeff Hatten** of Neoga. People had their picture taken in it. Guys especially just loved it.



In Jeep: (l-r) **Jim Picquet**; **Glenn Picquet** (at steering wheel); **Natalie Picquet** (wife of Jim), Lake Fork, TX; **Sue Picquet**, MO; **Brenda Picquet** (wife of Glenn), Albany, TX; **Chris Picquet** (husband of Sue), O'Fallon, MO. **Jim and Glenn** are brothers, the sons of **Eugene Picquet**, a native of Sainte Marie and son of **Jim and Sylvia Picquet**. Chris is their 1st cousin, son of Eugene's brother, **Jim**, who also grew up in Sainte Marie. Photo from Glenn Picquet.

Donna: Also, the **Orville and Dorothy Milliman** family loaned us two German knives and a leather jacket-uniform-duster that Orville's brother **Harold** sent back during WW II

5. Is there anyone in particular you would like to thank?

Mike: The entire SM community (including all of you who grew up here and sent us memorabilia!) who were very generous with loaning us items. And the key people who worked on the exhibit: my co-curator, **Donna Keller**; my wife **Teresa**; videographer **Annette Lynch**; **Ron Kirts** who made everything look great with his installation of lights. And the **Heath Foundation**, Robinson, who provided funds for display cases, copying and printing, and technology equipment
Donna: And I thank my co-curator Mike!



Pix: Two young boys were entranced by the DVD created by Annette Lynch. They sang all the military songs, a songfest that other visitors thoroughly enjoyed! Thanks to the Heath Foundation of Robinson for grant \$\$ to buy TV and other equipment.

6. What did people like best or comment on?

Donna: I think the museum room, the books of individual pictures and the DVD were all equally popular. During the Grand Opening weekend, people watched the DVD several times. There were always people thumbing through the picture books. It was very gratifying to see the interest in what we had put together, not only in the Museum Room but throughout the House. Many people commented about how much the House had been improved and the way the bedrooms were decorated.

Editor's note: If you want a copy of the military DVD, please return the enclosed form (on back page of this newsletter).

Catering at the Foundation House

Remember, **Hartrich Meats Catering** will provide meals for parties of six or more who meet or stay at the Foundation House. Call Janet at 618-455-3172 to order your meals.

Transitions

-**Maurice Calvert. 82.** (See front page story.)

-**Lora Jean Kocher, 60.** Survived by husband **Ed**, two sons.

-**Neenah Bogard, 88.** Survived by daughter **Susie (Ted) Ochs**, 6 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

-**Gloria Kocher Ochs, 73.** Survived by husband, **Louis**, 3 children; 9 grandchildren.

At the Foundation House

-The large tree in the front yard of the Foundation House suddenly broke apart in late July, with a third falling into the front lawn, narrowly missing the front porch. We grieve the loss of this big shade tree, but thanks to donations from the **Maurice Calvert** memorials, it will be replaced soon so another tree can start growing.

-Thanks to **Dave Wiltshire** for rolling shelves in our long and deep upstairs closets. These shelves will enable us to better use these closets for much-needed storage space. Dave also stayed at the Foundation House on Aug. 29 and 30 to do handyman jobs and initiate the set-up for the Grand Opening. We appreciate his help.

-Thanks to the volunteers who showed up on Sat. Aug. 30 to make sure the House was presentable and set-up outside for the Grand Opening event: **Vinnie and June Zuber, Gloria Zuber Schwartz, Ron and Carolyn Kirts, Ed and Linda Reis, Mike and Teresa Hartrich, Donna Keller, Annette Lynch, Maxine Calvert and Bonnie Jackson.** And thanks to **Hartrich Meats** who provided a light lunch for all of them.

-The landscaping committee is researching landscapers to plant the **Dorothy Hahn Memorial Garden** around the patio. Thanks to **Annette Lynch, chair; Carolyn Kirts, Sue Wheat, Patti Swisher Bunten** for taking a Saturday trip to Casey to view trees and plants. Some will be planted this fall with more in the spring.

We Get Mail

From **Cheryl Copper Yorn, TX**

I stumbled across your web site while browsing on the internet. I have really enjoyed reading copies of the old newsletters. I have seen pictures of people that I have not seen in years! Looking forward to reading future newsletters and staying in touch with what is going on in Ste. Marie – and bringing my children to visit!

Booking the Foundation House

To book the House (weddings, funerals, reunions, etc.) call 618-455-3153.

Sainte Marie Foundation
P.O. Box 186
Sainte Marie, IL 62459



Pix: Don and Betty Nix Ochs absorbed in the Museum display at the Grand Opening.

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.

Next Museum Exhibit in 2015

The Sainte Marie community and the Catholic Church in Sainte Marie were integrally linked, and that is the topic of our 2015-16 exhibit. We will be looking for pictures of baptisms, first communions or confirmations, prayer cards, statues, Church picnic pictures/posters, any church-related items, from St. Mary's or from St. Valentine in the Bend. If they are larger items...let us know what you have and we can tell you if we can utilize it in the space we have. Contact **Donna M. Keller** at 618-455-3452 or **Mike Hartrich** at 618-783-8678. You may drop off pictures at the Sainte Marie State Bank, but please include information about the pictures. They will be returned to the bank once they are scanned.

There are a number of very nice houses for sale in town. Mayor Jack Thompson (618-455-3579) will be happy to talk to you about these residences and give you the particulars about why we would like to have you move to Sainte Marie. Give him a call today.

How Do Other Local Museums Survive?

In recent months, we have visited the Effingham (Old Court House), Olney and Newton historical museums – just to get some ideas and also to explore how they are funded. We found that the Olney Museum, located in the old Carnegie Library building on Main Street and also in an historic mansion that has been renovated, is one that we would like to copy. Why? Because someone donated a farm to them a few years ago, and they survive on the income from the farm! Now that is a donation that would be well received by our ambitious little Foundation. If you have a farm (or house or securities, 401K funds -which include tax advantages, etc.) you would like to donate, we have experts to help you plan your contribution ;-). Those are great little museums, by the way. Stop and visit! (From Pat Reis, editor)

BLU-RAY OR DVD ORDER FORM

“MILITARY STARS”

\$30.00 Donation per disk

Name: _____

Address: _____

State/Zip code: _____ **Phone** _____

Type of Disk (please check): Blu-ray _____ **DVD** _____

Number of disks requested: _____. Please enclose checks to: **Sainte Marie Foundation, Box 186, Sainte Marie, IL 62459. Disks will be given out at the Sunday, November 16th Military Music concert or mailed to the address given above.**

Bonus Pages for E-mail Subscribers

These pages are only sent to e-mail subscribers. If you have family or friends who receive the printed version, you might copy these pages for them. Or better yet, if they have e-mail, send us their e-mail addresses, and we will send it to them directly. Thank you for saving us the postage \$\$ it would cost to mail this to you.

Sainte Marie Foundation Newsletter *continued*.....

Sainte Marie Gets Faster Internet Service

Finally..... after much pushing from Mayor Jack Thompson and other interested people, the Sainte Marie area has faster Internet service. “Rural areas really have a tough time getting the service they need,” says Jack, “but our persistence paid off. Wow, does this service seem fast compared to what we had!” Thanks to Frontier Communications for finally installing the upgraded equipment in the village.

Frontier will schedule a forum at the Sainte Marie town hall to discuss any issues and upgrade options available to increase speeds and pricing. The date and time will be posted in the Post Office and The Gas Station soon. E-mails will also be sent from the Foundation to alert area residents.

A Fabulous Grand Opening on August 30

August 30 dawned with rain. Oh, no! This was the day of our Grand Opening event, and rain was not an option!

Folding chairs were set up outside near the new patio – and still it rained. Two tents were erected, so that the musicians would not get wet. And still it rained. Volunteers arrived and prepared the cookie trays and lemonade. And still it rained.



Finally, around noon, the rain stopped. Volunteers dried off the folding chairs. By 12:30 p.m. all was ready for the big event. The string band, *Family Connections* (at left; pix by Jud Cameron), led by **Judy Helregel Millsap** started to play, to the delight of our guests who soon filled up the 40-some chairs, the three new benches and our picnic table benches. People went to their cars to bring in their own lawn chairs. We scrounged around for more chairs, and still people kept coming.

At 1 p.m. there was a hush as the Color Guard from **American Legion Post 932** marched onto the grounds. The program opened with everyone singing *God Bless America*.



Over 80 people from all over the country joined us on this happy occasion, as we dedicated the new **Kenny and Marge Hartrich** patio (pix at left – Photo by Madonna Schackmann) with its engraved bricks celebrating many current and former Sainte Marie-ites. In addition, we honored people who had given extraordinary donations, such as the **Art and Alice Keller Family**, the **Dorothy Hahn Family**, the **Maurice Calvert**

Family, two anonymous donors who donated money for the bathroom renovations, as well as volunteers who have provided so many services to the Foundation, especially the lawnmowers who have been mowing our lawn since we acquired the House in 2008 – **George Kirts, Robert Rumpp, Bob Helregel, Bill Hartrich, John Michl (retired) and Jack Thompson.**



The **Ste. Marie Community Club** president, **Julie Warfel**, presented the **Ron Kirts Family** with a stone bench, honoring all the work they have done over the years for the Sainte Marie community. (Photo by **Jud Cameron**)



(l-r) Board members **Mike Hartrich, Ron Kirts, Pat Reis, Donna Keller, Jason Warfel and Ed Reis** cut the ribbon, formally opening the museum at the Foundation House. (Pix by **Maxine Calvert**)

After the patio dedication, the Foundation Board members cut the ribbon in the front of the House. People poured into the House to see the new museum room and other exhibits throughout the House.



(l-r): Mike (Marshall, IL), **Jud** (Sullivan, IL) and **Dick Cameron** (Glenwood, IL) joined us at the Grand Opening on Aug. 30. How nice to see the Camerons back in Sainte Marie! And, Dick, we loved that you wore your 175th Anniversary tee shirt.



Bonnie Beucherie Jackson (Noble, IL) and **Deb Helregel** (Columbus, MO) chat after the grand opening ceremony. Deb is the daughter of **Don Helregel** who grew up in the Ste. Marie area.



The next day, during the St. Mary's Picnic, over 200 people visited the House to watch the military video prepared by **Annette Lynch**, view the loose-leaf notebooks featuring pictures of their relatives and friends, and marvel at the memorabilia in the Military Exhibit.

Pix at left: Visitors pack the living room at the Foundation House to view the military video that featured music and pictures of Sainte Marie residents who have served in various military branches. The half-hour video was so popular that people stayed to view it several times. Thanks to Annette Reis Lynch for the hours she spent creating it.



Pix: **Mary Jo Spitzer Martin**, Byron, IL, examines one of the military display cases.



Pix (l-r): Mike Hartrich, co-curator of the military exhibit, and State Representative David Reis revel in how popular the exhibit was with Grand Opening visitors.

The military exhibit, on display until the end of May, will be open on the first Sunday of the month from 1 – 3 p.m. and at other times by special request. We invite groups to meet at the Foundation House so that they can get a close-up look at all the displays. Call Ron or Carolyn Kirts at 618-455-3153 for information.



Even the 2009 Wedding Display, now moved to the 2nd floor at the Foundation House, was popular during the Grand Opening weekend, as people moved throughout the House to view themed bedrooms and other historic memorabilia.

SUMMER REUNIONS

Barthelme Reunion, July 19, 2014

The descendants of **Ed and Nora Barthelme** had a gala reunion at the St. Mary’s Parish Hall. After lunch, many participants visited the Foundation House for an early preview of the military exhibit. **Judy Alblinger Brangeon** from Paris, France, stayed at the House for the week with her husband, **Rene’** and several grandchildren. Her sister **Joyce Alblinger Mast**, CO, also stayed with them over the reunion weekend. The visitors marveled at the positive changes over the three years since their last reunion. We encourage all to visit again, since many changes were made in the period between the reunion and the grand opening in late August.



Grandchildren of Ed and Nora Barthelme who attended the Barthelme Reunion on July 19, 2014

Front Row: **Joyce Alblinger Mast**, **Don Alblinger**, **Jean Barthelme Regas**, **Judy Alblinger Brangeon**, **Dennis Hartrich**, **Becky Sheridan**.

Middle Row, **Vicki Sheridan Kocher**, **Ed Barthelme**, **Sally Sheridan Cohorst**, **Jayne Sheridan Calvert**, **Cindy Sheridan Carlson**, **Marcia Barthelme Boyle**, **Jayne Barthelme Rubsam**, **Tom Barthelme**, **Bob Barthelme**

Back Row: **John Barthelme**, **Jim Barthelme**, **Kay Barthelme James** (Pix from Margo Regas)

Hartrich/Picquet Reunion, August 2 -3, 2014

The Hartrich/Picquet Reunion was a smashing success, with visitors from all over the country filling the new Cobblestone Hotel in Newton. Many from out of town walked around the village on Saturday and Sunday, exploring all the historical sites as well as the cemetery where they looked for their ancestors' graves. The Saturday mass at St. Mary's was filled with Picquets – and **Hal Picquet**, MN, was the very eloquent reader for the service. His brothers, **Paul and Walter Picquet**, brought their families from as far away as Anchorage, Alaska. A dinner after the Mass saw Hartrichs and Picquets mixing as if they were long-lost friends! A picnic on Sunday was the send-off for this gala weekend.

It had been 12 years since the two families had met at a reunion. Thanks to **Mike and Teresa Hartrich** for organizing this memorable event.

We were happy to welcome three couples from the Picquet family who stayed at the House during the Picquet Reunion, Aug. 1 and 2. **Glenn and Brenda Picquet** of Albany, TX; **Jim and Natalie Picquet**, Emory, TX and **Chris and Sue Picquet**, St. Louis, MO, Glenn and Jim's first cousins. Glenn and Jim had spent summer vacations as children with their grandparents, **Jim and Sylvia Picquet**, so they were pleased to be back in Sainte Marie once again. They especially enjoyed staying at the Foundation House, remembering happy times with their grandparents who lived just down the street, across from **Bob and Tammy Frye**.

The Hartrichs and Picquets previewed the military exhibit at the Foundation House museum on Sunday afternoon. Many of them had submitted photos for the loose-leaf notebooks, as Picquets from the very beginning of Sainte Marie had served in various wars, starting with Xavior and James in the Civil War. Many asked how they could stay at the House in the future. We would welcome all back to the village founded by their ancestors!



At the Saturday night dinner, (l-r)Gina Fox Mullinax, a founding member of the Sainte Marie Foundation Board, explains an historical document to Lynn Picquet, MN, _____ Hartrich, Liz Hartrich Thacker, Oblong, IL, and Liz's mother, Mary Hartrich (seated in front).

Gina's mother, Rosemary Hartrich Mullinax, now deceased, was one of Sainte Marie's most active boosters. She and her husband, Paul, (pix below) started the Ste. Marie Community Club. planted numerous trees throughout the village and generally did all they could to promote community activities. Rosemary also was active on the 1987 150th Anniversary celebration committee and wrote the historical book for that event.



Paul Mullinax at the Reunion



(Above) The three Picquet brothers, Hal (MN), Norman (NM) and Paul (GA) at the reunion. They are sons of Walter Eugene Picquet (born in 1884), and descendants of Xavier, brother of SM's founder, Joseph Picquet.

At left: Hal Picquet, MN, examines the historical book, *Sainte Marie: Stories and Reminiscences 1837-2012*, published by the Sainte Marie Foundation for the 175th Anniversary. Some 20 books were sold to reunion attendees. Books may be ordered through the Foundation website: www.saintemarietfoundation.org



At left: (l-r)Diane Picquet-Pietrzak and Jen Pietrzak, MN, enjoy the Saturday evening meal prepared by Hartrich Meats Catering. Diane is Hal's daughter.



Lynn and Chris Picquet, MN. Chris is Hal's son.



Paul Picquet, Sr. and wife Dottie pose with their children in front of the St. Mary's Parish Center after the Saturday dinner.
(l-r) Paul Picquet, Sr., GA; Edward Picquet, GA; Paul Picquet, Jr., FL; Evette (Picquet) Deaton, GA; Elaine (Picquet) Stokes, OH; Dorothy Picquet aka Dottie Picquet, GA.



At left: Glenn and Brenda Picquet, TX. Glenn enjoyed vacations in SM with his grandparents, James and Sylvia Picquet. His father, Eugene, located in TX after he served in World War II, so that is where Glenn grew up and still lives. His father's induction papers are in the military exhibit – significant because he was *only 16* when he enlisted, though he convinced the Army that he was 19!
