



Sainte Marie Foundation News

Celebrating our special hometown Winter 2022

Volume 15 Issue 1

CNW Realty

A new business has sprouted in Sainte Marie! Cathy Wilson opened CNW Realty on November 1 of 2021. The business is based from her home office, 101 St. Joseph Street. She and Kenny Ochs have lived here, the former home of Paul and Rosemary Mullinax, for the past five years.

Cathy was raised in Jasper County and has had her real estate license for the past three years. In 2021, she decided to return to school and get her Managing Broker's license. She is looking forward to locating new homes or selling homes for her clients. While she can work anywhere in Illinois, her focus will be Jasper and surrounding counties.

CNW REALTY LLC
CATHY WILSON
Managing Broker / Owner
618-783-9566
101 St. Joseph
Ste Marie IL 62459
cathywilson142@gmail.com
WORKING HARD TO HELP YOU



The Talk of the Town

The Town Talk Restaurant and Bar will soon be opening in the former Alblinger and Kirts Hardware store. Owners Brad and Becky Ederer say things are coming along nicely and they are hoping to be open by March. They are looking for memorabilia and pictures of the Alblinger and Kirts Hardware store to display in the store. Below is a picture of one of the block walls of the store which is complemented by the black ceiling. What an exciting addition to Sainte Marie!



SAVE THE DATE
Saturday,
February 26, 2022

Mardi Gras in
Sainte Marie!



Let the Good Times Roll!

Sainte Marie will be getting in touch with its French roots as the Ste. Marie American Legion Auxiliary holds its inaugural fundraising Mardi Gras celebration. Activities will include a mini parade slated to step off at 4:00. Residents and businesses are encouraged to join the fun by decorating golf carts, side x sides, etc. in the traditional Mardi Gras colors of purple, green, and gold and throwing out beads to parade observers.

The fun will continue at the Legion where food will be served from 5-7 p.m. Continuing the Mardi Gras theme, dinner will feature jambalaya, red beans and rice, OR an Andouille sausage from Hartrich Meats. Each a la carte item will also be served with cornbread and a King Cake cupcake. Meat and cheese trays along with other snacks will be available for purchase.

Following the meal, the Sons of the American Legion, Squadron 932, will sponsor DJ Tim Messina from 7-10:30. Be sure and wear a Mardi Gras mask and costume! Entry will be through the Club Room downstairs.

Sponsors of the event are Hartrich Meats, Koerner Distributors (signage and give aways), Sainte Marie Sons of the American Legion, Hi Benders, The Hill, and SKY Saloon. All three bars will be donating to the Auxiliary for their veterans' programs and serving special themed drinks for the celebration.

Museum Hours

We will be back open on Sunday, March 6, 2022 from 1-3pm.

Edward Walters had great sport this week hunting with his ferrets. He reports many fine catches made by the little animals.

February 14, 1914

Whoville

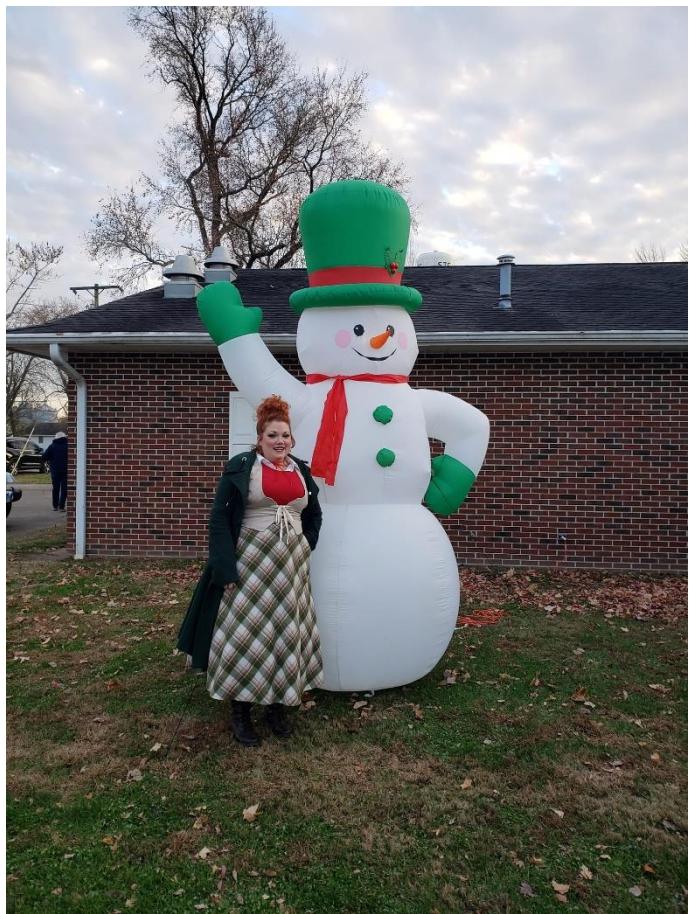
On Saturday, November 27, the village of Sainte Marie was transformed into a magical place reminding one of the tiny town of Whoville. Sponsored by the Sainte Marie Community Club, this was the first year for Whoville.

Everywhere you looked, there were smiles galore. The town was filled with shoppers finding treasures at the Christmas Farmers Market, tractor pulled wagons giving rides around the Village, skaters trying their first attempt at "ice", and families posing for pictures at the many photo ops around town. There were crafts, food, facepainting, and games at the American Legion. The lighting of the large Christmas tree at the Municipal building was the grand finale of the day. People really enjoyed the day and left wishing for more. That is the plan of the Community Club! Everything went so well and there was such great enthusiasm for the festivities that making it an annual event is a natural choice.

The Community Club is now focusing on the annual Easter Egg hunt which is held the Saturday before Easter at Picquet Park. Future plans include raising funds through concession stand sales for park improvements in Sainte Marie.

We will let the pictures speak for themselves!









Farmers Market

The Sainte Marie Christmas Farmers Market on Saturday, November 27 proved to be very successful with hundreds of people coming through the Foundation House and Museum to purchase handcrafted and homemade gifts or just a little something for themselves! Many people said they didn't even know the house and museum existed. The goal of making more people aware of what the Sainte Marie Foundation is all about and to see the latest museum exhibit was accomplished. All crafters did an excellent business, so it was a win-win situation!

The Sainte Marie Farmers Market will be starting the 2022 season on Saturday, June 5th from 8 am to noon. The Newton Band Boosters will be handling the concessions that day to make money for their band trip.



Spring is just around the corner! Order forms for the annual flower baskets are attached to this email. What a great way to honor your loved ones! Deadline is **March 15**.

Transitions

Teresa Hartrich, 74 of Newton, died September 17, 2021. Teresa was a large part of the success of the Sainte Marie Foundation and Museum. She worked alongside her husband Mike, Foundation Vice President, with whatever needed to be done. Her wit, humor, and love of people will always stay with us.

Survivors include Mike, daughter, Michelle, son-in-law Dusty, daughter in-law Joyce and five grandchildren. Son Scott preceded her in death.

Matthew Barnett, 91 of Sainte Marie died November 17, 2021. He leaves behind wife Donna, seven children, and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Jean Barthelme Regas of Indianapolis died January 24, 2022. Jean was the daughter of Bud and Evelyn Barthelme. Jean loved the village of Sainte Marie and was an enthusiastic supporter of the Foundation.

Surviving are her daughter, Margo and son, Jon.

Ted Barthelme of Las Vegas, NV died November 1, 2021. He was the son of Bud and Evelyn Barthelme.

Mary E. Harris, 89 of Naples, FL died December 15, 2021. She was born in Ste. Marie the daughter of Frank and Margaret Ochs.

Survivors include daughters Anita and Carol and son, Robert and ten grandchildren. Son, Paul preceded her in death.

Cork and Pork Festival

The skies literally opened, and the downpour sent the crowds running but the **Cork and Pork Festival** was still able to donate over \$20,000 to local groups and organizations. Since the inception of the celebration in 2015, proceeds of over \$151,000 have been granted to the Jasper County community. Among the awardees this year are **Blessings in a Backpack**, **HCE Toys for Kids**, **the band and theater department at NCHS**, **Ste. Marie Community Club**, **Ste. Marie Farmers Market**, **Shop with a Cop**, and many more deserving groups. The festival for 2022 will be held at 5:00 Saturday, July 9 at Picquet Park. The **Matt Poss Band** will be the headline entertainment. Details coming soon on the **Cork and Pork Festival** and **Sainte Marie, Illinois Facebook** pages.



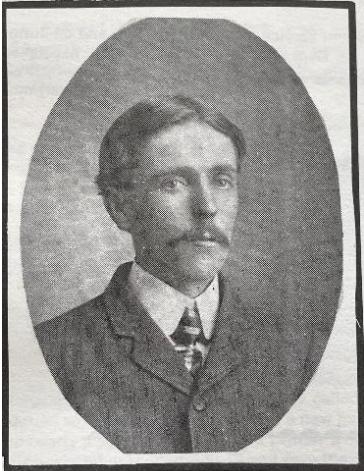
Sainte Marie Tribune

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!



Gus Alblinger in front of the Tribune

The Sainte Marie Tribune...what a gem! Its importance to the Village of Sainte Marie cannot be overstated. Not only did the residents receive news of the day, but it also allows us a glimpse of life back in our town over 100 years ago. Everything from who was visiting whom, what oddity was found in a vegetable garden, who was ailing, to a sarcastic remark we would only make on social media could be found in the weekly paper. Otis Stanley, a printer from Newton, founded the paper in 1901. After three years of trying to keep the newspaper financially feasible, he sold the Tribune to August Alblinger, his 17-year-old typesetter. Mr. Stanley had complete trust that his young protegee could handle the duties of the position. Barbara Alblinger bought the paper in her name, but it was truly a family operation.



Otis Stanley

The location of the Tribune office was in the Martin building just west of the former Sainte Marie State Bank. In 1905, it was moved to the corner of the Alblinger property where it stayed until the mid-1970s. This building also housed the General Telephone office and switchboard. After WWI, it was the location of the post office until 1961.

A local subscription to the weekly paper was \$1 a year while the out-of-town cost was \$1.50. Circulation ran from approximately 250 to 300 copies and was sent to almost every U.S. state.

News was brought into the paper, picked up at the railroad station and called in by the local doctors. Each Monday, the process of putting another paper together started all over again. It was all hands-on deck for the manual typesetting and printing on the large printing press. As soon as she was able to spell, Lena Alblinger Kirts helped the family by doing much of the typesetting. Thursday was printing day, while Friday was the day the paper was distributed. Publication of another week's paper was celebrated by going to Barthelme's store for a large chunk of cheese and a generous helping of saltines and to Richard's Saloon for a bucket of ice-cold draft beer.

The Tribune was four pages long with the second and third pages being preprinted with state, national, and world news. Business ads kept the paper alive. \$1.50 would buy a small block ad, while a full-page ad would run \$10.00.

Gus with the help of his brother, John, ran the paper until Gus went to college in 1907. John took over until it was his turn to go to college. In 1912, Gus had an opportunity to work on the Pesotum Chief, so John took over the entire operation. It remained this way until WWI came and the Alblinger men answered the call of their country. The final edition of the paper was May 10, 1918. After the war, Gus returned to his job in Pesotum while John entered the hardware business with his brother -in-law, Harley Kirts. Issues of the Tribune have been preserved by the family who has an almost complete collection. The Newton Library also has the issues on microfilm and the paper can also be viewed with a Newspapers.com subscription. Without access to the pages of the Sainte Marie Tribune, this newsletter would be much more difficult to create. Many thanks to those who make this paper available.



Gus and John Alblinger

JOB PRINTING
IN ALL ITS BRANCHES
INCLUDING
Letter Heads
Note Heads
Bill Heads
Statements
Envelopes Pamphlets
Circulars
Programs
Postals
Cards Etc.

NEATLY AND PROMPTLY EXECUTED AT
THE SAINTE MARIE TRIBUNE
Ste. Marie Illinois
CALL AND GET OUR PRICES

July 19, 1908

Local News

Village Registrtr Jos. Geltz, reported 9 births and 8 deaths during the year 1916.

January 5, 1917

It Pays to Advertise

A Missouri woman advertised for a husband. She got one at the cost of \$6. He afterwards enlisted and was killed at Manilla. She got \$3000 life insurance and a pension as long as she lives. Yet, some people say it doesn't pay to advertise.

February 27, 1914

Typed because of poor print quality

SAINTE MARIE TRIBUNE

Entered at the postoffice, Sainte Marie Illinois, as second class mail matter

A. F. ALBLINGER & CO.
Publishers

Published Every Friday

Subscription Price

Single Copy....., 5 cent

Feb. 2, 1917

The following people from a distance have had their names enrolled on our subscription list the past two weeks: B. Richards, Mattoon; Henry Slemmon, Indianapolis; Miss Emma Churohill, Mattoon; Frank Snider, Vevay Park; Sarah Hendry, Mountain Grove, Mo.; Frank Pancoast, Pond Creek, Oklahoma; G. W. Wenz, Indianapolis; Miss Louise Litzelman, Mattoon.

July 26, 1901

Two Kinds of Girls.

There are two kinds of girls in this and every other community. One is the kind that appears best abroad, the girls that are good for parties, rides, visits balls and whose chief delight is in such things. The other is the kinds that appears best at home, the girls that are useful and cheerful in the dining room, a sick-room and all the precincts of home. They differ widely in character. One is often a torment at home, the other a blessing. One is a moth, consuming every thing about her; the other is a sunbeam, inspiring light and gladness around her pathway. The right education will modify both a little, and thus unite the good qualities of both in one.

November 19, 1909

Xavier Picquet Civil War POW



Xavier Picquet was born in France in 1833 to Jacques and Mary Cleophe Schifferstein Picquet. He accompanied his mother and other family members to the United States in 1844 on the ship *Argo*. His older brothers and father had already made the trip several years earlier and began the settlement of Sainte Marie. He would have been in his late twenties when he joined the Illinois 32nd Infantry Company K on December 31, 1861. The 32nd was under the leadership of Captain John J. Rider. (See the Spring edition of the newsletter for an article on Capt. Rider.) In their first major battle, the 32nd came up the Tennessee River and encountered the Confederates at Pittsburg Landing. Also known as the Battle of Shiloh, the 32nd losses were heavy, and they retreated to their gunboats to regroup. The next day, they advanced again and sent the Confederates on a 20-mile march back to Corinth, MS.

Theodore Schifferstein, a 2nd lieutenant and brother-in-law of Xavier, was wounded and so traumatized by the battle, he was allowed to quit his commission and sent home. Xavier, a sergeant, was promoted to Theodore's position of 2nd lieutenant.

During Shiloh, Xavier was bound to have seen intense fighting as he was known to be fighting in the peach orchard that was a short distance from the infamous Hornet's Nest. He was directly engaged with Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston and was about 300 yards from him when Johnston fell.

Xavier was transferred to the 55th Regiment under the leadership of General James "Birdseye" McPherson at Atlanta. July 22, 1864, General McPherson, 35 years of age, was shot from his horse and died soon after. Xavier was about 300 yards from him. Both MacPherson (Union) and

Johnston (Confederate) were the highest-ranking officers for each side killed in battle and Xavier had the coincidence of being close to where they fell. Xavier and many other Union troops were captured by the Confederate Army at Atlanta. Among those were Capt. John Wesley Powell's brother, Capt. Walter H. Powell.

Xavier and Walter, along with many others were first taken to Andersonville. Only enlisted men were in the main yard as that was not for officers. Officers were kept only a short while at Andersonville at a nearby "hotel" close to the railroad before being transferred to other prisons. Andersonville was known as one of the most horrific POW camps during the entire Civil War. Almost 1/3 of the prisoners held here died. Men that were kept here were exposed to the elements, basically starved, and forced to drink from a creek that was downhill from the prisoners' latrine.

Xavier was moved by rail to Savannah, GA, then Charleston, SC, and finally to Columbia, SC. where he stayed at Camp Sorghum until the end of 1864. Camp Sorghum was better than Andersonville, but not by much. Winter was closing in; shelter was almost nonexistent and there were no materials to build anything. Another necessity, food, was sparse and mainly consisted of grain sorghum, hence the name of Camp Sorghum. Union troops had gone through Savannah and were headed to Columbia, freeing prisoners along the way. Xavier survived but barely. He was released in December of 1864, a mere skeleton of the man he was before.

Three factors aided in his survival:

1. He was an officer
2. He was captured near the end of the war.
3. The Union forces were pushing through Georgia and the Carolinas and had the Confederate Armies in disarray.

The conditions of the camp and its effect on the men can be seen in an excerpt written by Lieutenant Picquet. Speaking of the time he had spent with Walter H. Powell:

"throughout the fall of 1863 and all through the Atlanta Campaign, up to the 22nd of July 1864, on which day we were both captured by the enemy, we were in the same prisons, but were at the time that the following events happened, at Camp Sorghum, ... near Columbia S.C. At that place Capt. W.H. Powell was taken down sick, and sent to the Hospital so called because it consisted of a tent. We neither saw nor heard any more of him until thanksgiving day, on that day our mess was assembled in our humble cabin speculating on what was probably still in reserve for us, when what was our astonishment he suddenly appeared amongst us, he stood, His tall form dominating all of us, his head towards the heavens, his arms held aloft in supplication as it were, and out of his lips there poured forth an eloquent but solemn and sad prayer, for an instant we stood confounded, and instead of a general and hearty peal of laughter the tears stood in our eyes, we perceived that our comrade was out of his mind. We

gently took him to the Dead line & called the officer of the day to whom we consigned him, we then learned that our comrade in his delirium had escaped from the Hospital and at the peril of his life rushed across the Dead line to see his comrades. That is the last time I saw him. During the time I knew him, that is about a year of army life Capt. W.H. Powell enjoyed good health. Written with my own hand without dictation. Xavier Picquet Late 2d Lieut Co K 32d Regt III (illegible) A.A. Ordn officer 4th Div 17th A.C."

Xavier

Xavier wrote the above affidavit in support of Walter's efforts to receive a military pension. Powell was plagued by physical and mental disabilities the rest of his remaining fifty years. He was able, though, to accompany his brother, John Wesley Powell, on his famous expeditions of the Grand Canyon. Xavier made a trip out west to relay the story of their time and treatment in prison camp to John Wesley. It is believed Xavier named one of his sons after Walter H. Powell.

Xavier returned to Sainte Marie and married Elizabeth Hartrich in 1870. They lived in the house Xavier's father had built when he first came to the U.S. The couple had a large family to fill the big house: three boys and 3 girls.

Xavier died in 1898 and Elizabeth in 1937. They are both buried in Sainte Mary's Cemetery.



Xavier's commission as 2nd Lieutenant 1862

Many thanks to Glenn Picquet for the information for this article.

California, Here We Come!



Editor's note: Following is the second installment of the journal of Sr. John Berchman describing her journey to Tucson, Arizona. She and three other sisters from St. Louis made the trip in 1876 to establish missions in the Southwest. She was the daughter of Ste. Marie pioneers, Theodore and Frances Hartrich. Typed as written.

We arrived at Ogden Tuesday, 25th. Through the while Territory of Nevada the snow was no less than twenty feet deep in some places; that is on the mountains. After riding for about 3 hours under continual snow sheds, the cars winding round the summit of the mountains; all a person could see was nothing yt snow ad tall pine trees and firs measuring in height about 50 feet. As soon as we entered the state of California, we suddenly passed from the depth of winter into the middle of spring. At Elko the first station in Cal., there were strawberries for sale, and the mountains were covered with beautiful flowers which filled the air with fragrance. We also had a view of the gold mines at a place called Goldrun. Not far from there, a gentleman presented Mother with a five dollar gold piece as a gift. We arrived in Sacramento City Thursday, Apr 27th at 11 o'clock A.M. The city is situated on a plain with the mountains of the east. The streets are wide and lined on both sides with large trees. Each house is surrounded with beautiful flower gardens. The largest building we saw was the capitol or courthouse; it resembled in size and beauty the one in St. Louis. Between Sacramento and San Francisco the farmers were cutting their hay; the wheat was already in heads. They raise two crops a year we also saw large lemons twice the size of the common lemon. They grow in Cal. also oranges. The small towns near San Francisco are beautiful. The finest gardens, fruits of all kinds are cultivated. Peaches were then the size of small hickory

nuts. The cherries were getting ripe; at least we tasted some before we left for San Francisco! I must say that California is the Eden of the U. S.

The territory of Arizona makes up for it. In all my days, I never saw such a barren, sandy, deserted pace, as out here. I must return to San Francisco. We reached there Thursday evening Apr. 27th about five O'clock P.M. I can not describe in words the warm welcome the good Sisters of Mercy gave us. In a word, they made us feel perfectly at home. They treated us as their own. We assisted at their recreations and took our places with them in their chapel. Now I'll describe their grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes. It was really so natural; the iron railing, the fountain, the vines and little trees, everything was there, except the church on the mountain. While there, we assisted at Mass, said in the grotto, so you may judge its size. Opposite the grotto of our Lady of Lourdes they have the chapel of our Lady of La Salette, that is, the three statues in different positions in which the Blessed Virgin appeared to the children, also the statues of the little boy and girl. Mother Baptist took us to see their house of correction for young girls. They also keep women who are addicted to drinking. The Sisters teach these young women all kinds of needlework' they embroider vestments and the like; the work is beautiful. They have a large garden and such beautiful flowers and shrubs; their burial ground lies quite near the house; it is covered with nice green grass, divided in squares of about 30 by 40 ft. They have the stations, or the way of the cross in their graveyard; in the centre, there is a little chapel; in that they have a large crucifix life size, and the statues of the Blessed Virgin and St. John, one on each side of the cross and Mary Magdalen kneeling at the foot of the cross. We also visited three of the principal churches, St. Patrick's, the Cathedral and the Jesuits' church. St. Patrick's is the largest; they are not as nice as I expected to find them.

The city is nicely laid out, part of it is built on three hills, one of the hills is over 500 feet above the level of the sea. The houses are nearly all wood. They are painted so as to resemble stone or brick. Their sidewalks are planks; it is very difficult to walk without tripping sometimes. The climate is pleasant, the air pure and healthy, the nights very cool, and during the day there is always a nice breeze. We met a great number of Chinese, so many, that you would almost think yourself in China; they have several streets here which are entirely occupied by them. I must bid adieu to San Francisco. On May the 6th we bid farewell to the good Sisters of Mercy and embarked on the steamer Newburn, commanded by the kind Captain Metzger. We were determined not to get sick, so we remained on deck quite a while. Coming out of the bay it was very rough so that a person could not stand without having a firm hold; but pretty soon we were obliged to retire to our cabins where the performance began. Mother, Sisters Eutichiana and M. Rose were very sick, but I was determined not to give up. After struggling quite a while, I was compelled to go through the same ordeal. I could not keep from

laughing, as sick as I felt. The others were too sick to laugh. You may imagine four of us in a little room, hardly enough place to stir, and each one with her basin. At first we only had two but getting so sick we were obliged to call for two more. I have to laugh whenever I think of it. Mother never felt well on sea, but still she was not as sick as when she was coming from Europe.

The second day of our journey we were over a hundred miles from the coast, all we could see was the sky and water. At night the sky is so clear, the stars shine so bright, much brighter than in the middle states. We saw the southern cross too while on the sea. I enjoyed the trip on the ocean very much. *To be continued*

Sainte Marie School



The red brick school and the white school were used for the public elementary schools upon the consolidation of Jasper County districts from 1947-1966. In March of 1965, a proposed bond issue of \$150,000 was discussed by the Sainte Marie Board of Education and community members. The bond was to be used for the construction of a new school south of the city park. The vote was overwhelming in favor of building a new school. Formal dedication of the building was done in August of 1966 and 148 students started attending the building later that month. Originally, the school housed grades 1-8 with kindergarten being added shortly thereafter. There were six classrooms, a large gym, a kitchen and cafeteria, and an office. In 1974, another classroom was added on to the west end of the school. Even though it was a public school, the Dominican Sisters continued to teach students until 1970 when their housing was needed by the Sacred Heart Novitiate to house novitiates following their devastating fire in 1969.

In 1972, a further consolidation was approved in the county, and the formation of three junior high schools was created. The elementary school was then K-6. It remained that way for several years until East Junior High was moved to the building in 1978 while grade K-4 moved to the former novitiate. Consolidations continued due to a shrinking enrollment and in 2003, the junior high students moved to Newton while the elementary students moved back to the original school. The last big change for the building was in 2011 when it housed

the Pre-K and K students. Jasper County Community Unit #1 plans are to close the school soon and move all students to Newton. The building has held countless memories for many Sainte Marie children during its 55+ years in existence.

School Memories

Sally Sheridan Cohorst remembers having to wear a dunce cap because she gave a silly answer to a problem. The fire alarm went off for a drill during this time and she had to wear the hat outside. Mrs. Leffler taught us math and left such an impression that Sally made it her profession.

Everett Thompson says he will always remember shooting rockets off in the area north of the school.

Ramon Kocher was in first grade when the school opened. The kitchen was not completed, so everyone took a sack lunch and ate out on the playground. He was also in Boy Scouts when the Scouts put in the landscaping in front of the school.

Maverick Goss loved boys pe class because the male teacher (see below) would let them play dodge ball and the teacher would play along.

Don Schmidt was in 6th grade when he started attending school here and was very excited there was a GYM! He ended up teaching there for 32 years and commented he had many wonderful memories of the place.

Adam Ochs and Amber Helregel Parks remembers the delicious homemade meals that Lelia Rennier served. Several agreed and mentioned that Jean Ochs and Martha Strutner followed in her shoes!

Ted Hartrich remembers there were no more nuns for teachers. He was reminded that some of us still had nuns in the lower grades.

Editor notes: After going to first grade in the old red brick school, I was able to attend second grade the year the school opened. We had two grades in each classroom, except for eighth grade which was taught by Mr. Dorothy Leffler, the school principal. That grade had a classroom off the main office. Mrs. Melba Rose Sheridan was secretary and I remember her to be very sweet. During my years at the school, I had Mrs. Eufala Bigard, Sr. Mary Edith, Sr. Mary Stefano, Mr. Roy Hixon, and Mrs. Dorothy Leffler. JCCU#1 consolidated 7th and 8th grades into three county junior highs. We attended East Junior High in Willow Hill for 8th grade. It was a three-story brick building which was later torn down. Girls always had to wear dresses to school. Even if it was very cold, you could wear pants under your dresses, but you had to take them off when you got to school. One extremely cold day, a girl did not wear a dress, just pants. Her father thought the rule about dresses was ridiculous and told her she could just wear pants. Talk about a revolution!



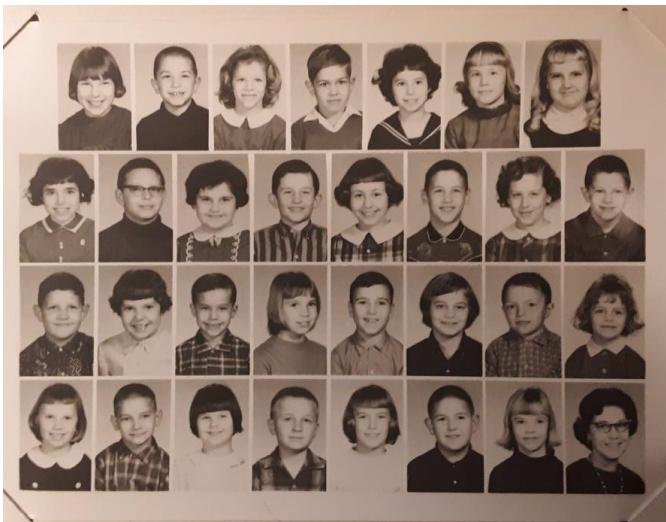
1967



1968



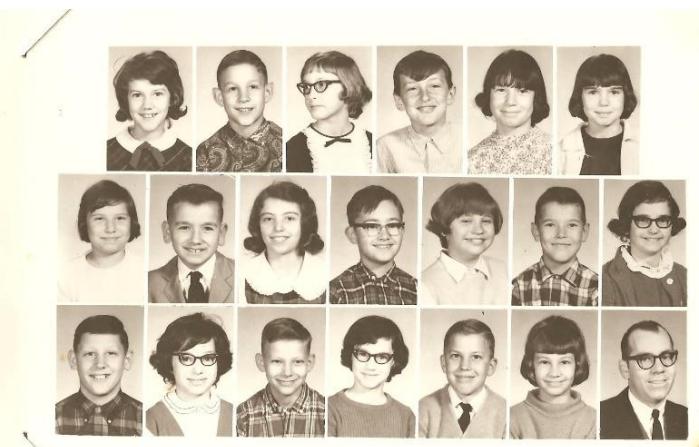
1971-72



1967-68



1969



1966-67



1973



1968-69



1972



1975?



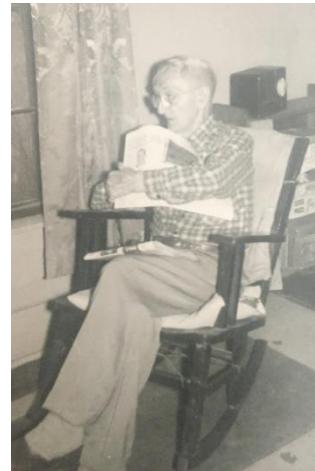
1973



1973

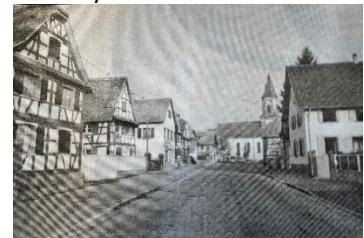
Sainte Marie's Greatest Generations

Remembering those who have made our memories
sweet and our Village strong



E. A. (Mon) Spitzer

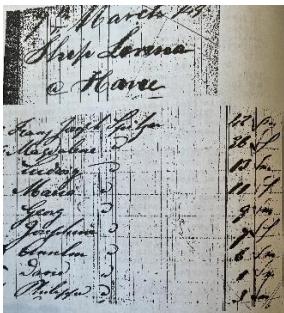
The story of E. A. "Mon" Spitzer begins not in the town of Sainte Marie, but many years ago in the small village of Weyersheim, Alsace, France. Francis Joseph, the young man who made the brave move to a new country was born in 1807 to Anna and Lorantz Spitzer. He had an older half-brother, also named Lorantz. His grandfather, Francis, was a wagon builder in this town, as was his father before him. Pictured below is the house where Lorantz and Anna raised their children. It is still inhabited today.



The house is the second one on the left in the street view picture.

Francis Joseph married Mary Magdalene Voltz, a 22-year-old girl from the same village in 1835. Francis was 27 at the time. Their first child, Louis was born in 1835 at their residence of No. 156 in Weyersheim. There were no street names, just numbers. Mary Ann arrived in 1836, with George following in 1838. Then came Louise Josephine in 1839, Anselm 1841, John Phillip in 1845, and child number eight, Magdalene, in 1847.

Just a few weeks prior to their fourteenth wedding anniversary, Francis Joseph and Magdalene loaded up a wagon that was built by Francis Joseph, and their eight kids and took off for a new land and new opportunities in the United States. The group of ten boarded the Lorena at LeHarve on December 24, 1848, along with 71 other passengers and braced themselves for the long journey to their new home.



Spitzer names on Lorena Manifest

They landed in New Orleans on March 7, 1849 and headed up the Mississippi disembarking in St. Louis. They stayed in Mascoutah, Illinois with the Huss family. During that time, there was a cholera outbreak. Joseph Litzelman of Sainte Marie happened to be going to St. Louis for supplies and stopped at the Huss home acquaintances of his. He offered to take the Spitzer family to Ste. Marie on his return trip and they agreed. And that is just the beginning of the American Spitzer story!

Francis Joseph and Mary Magdalen bought 40 acres from the estate of Jerome Hayden for \$175 on October 7, 1850. Many generations of Spitzers have lived in this exact location, Joseph, Frank, Magdalena Spitzer Rider, Nicholas, Donald, Dave, and Mark Spitzer. A 2-room log cabin was lived in by Joseph and Magdalen until their deaths and torn down in 1917 by Nicholas Spitzer. Anne Spitzer Sheridan remembers living in his cabin. Mark and Rhonda Spitzer built a log home just a few feet from where the original cabin stood.

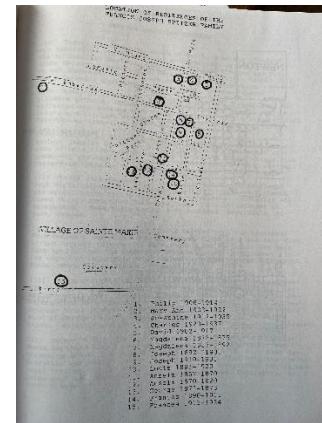
After their arrival in the U. S., four more children were born; Charles in 1850, Frances in 1852, Joseph in 1854, and finally Frank in 1857. The family was complete with 8 sons and 4 daughters.

Francis Joseph continued to purchase land for his growing farm and family and ended up owning around 288 acres. Mary Magdalen passed away in 1876 at the age of 62. She and Francis Joseph had been married for over 40 years. In 1877, Phillip married Victoria Keller and Francis Joseph began dividing his land by giving 40 acres to each to four of his sons at the price of \$1 and "the love and affection that he had for them." Francis Joseph died on April 26, 1878, from cholera the day after his 71st birthday. Son George had passed away three days earlier from the same illness.

The couple from Weyersheim are buried in St. Mary's cemetery.



Frances Joseph and Magdalen Spitzer Monument



Location of Sainte Marie Addresses for Spitzer Children



Anselm Spitzer

To further our story, we continue to the fifth child of Francis Joseph and Mary Magdalen, Anselm. He was born in Weyersheim in 1841. He would have been seven at the time of the family's voyage. In 1866, Anselm set out to make a living for himself and his new bride, Mary Gugumus. They bought a lot on the corner of West Oak and South Main for \$25 in 1867. The next year, they purchased two lots north of their home. This would be where Hartrich Brothers Elevator stood. Also in 1868, they welcomed son, Alexis, and the following year, daughter Fabiola arrived.

In 1870, they purchased a lot with a small home on it. The Sainte Marie Kindergarten Center now stands on this site. Oak Street at that time was a through street and bordered Picquet Park on the south. He subsequently purchased three more lots adjacent to his home.

Two more children arrived to complete their family; Emil in 1873 and Louis in 1880. Anselm set up his blacksmithing shop which would now be north of the George and Chlorine Kirts home. Emil and Louis joined their father in the family business. In a 1901 article in the Newton Press, the father and sons had a thriving business:

"A. Spitzer & Sons last week set 72 wagon and buggy tires besides doing their shop work."

In 1902, Anselm formed a partnership with his son-in-law, A. J. Litzelman. Their partnership continued until 1912 when Anselm retired.

CULTIVATORS



We have the **COLLINS** and **GOLDEN RULE** Walkers; The **DANDY** Rider or Walkers; The **CAPTAIN KID** and **PILOT** Disc Cultivators.

Prices same as last year except on **DISC** Cultivators.



Spitzer & Litzelman
Sainte Marie, Illinois.



Mary died in 1903 at the age of 57. Anselm continued to live with Louis at their home. Louis went to work at Lawrenceville in 1920 to work at the refinery there. Emil oversaw the blacksmithing shop himself. Anselm lived with Louis's wife, Flavia, and their children until his death in 1924. He and his wife, Mary, are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery.

BUGGIES
BUGGIES
BUGGIES

Our line of **BUGGIES** are the **BEST** in the County—the best made, best grade and easiest riding buggies on earth **for the money**. Latest styles. Guaranteed.

Lightning strikes the unprotected building. Better have us put on some lightning rods and thus save your property from ruin.

SPITZER & LITZELMAN

HORSE GOODS

We carry a splendid line of Lap Robes and Horse Blankets. Old Santa Clause is a popular man who don't use horses. He's only an imaginary being, anyway. The most popular people generally have horses. They all use horse goods. Mostly they get them from us for they know the quality is right and the prices right.

Spitzer & Litzelman



The blacksmith shop owned by E. A. "Mon" Spitzer. Mon is the young man in the center. His father, Anselm, is at the far right. Circa 1900

We finally get to the story of Emil Andrew "Mon" Spitzer. Born in Sainte Marie in 1873, he was the third child of Anselm and Mary. He was a blacksmith working with his father and brother and continued the work of his ancestors working with wagons and wheels. Of course, the wagon was on its way out when Emil had reached adulthood, but there still was a great need in the village for repairs of machinery, shoeing horses, and refitting wagon wheels.

Emil married Mathilda Houser in 1895 and they lived in the first house his father bought in Sainte Marie on South Main. They had 10 children: Edmund, Charlotte, Joseph, Mary, Aretta, Thelma, Julia, Herbert, Eugene, and John. Five boys and 5 girls! What a busy house that must have been!



L to R John, Julia, Eugene, Thelma, Aretta, Herbert, Mary, Joseph, Charlotte, and Edmund. This picture was taken at the time of Mon's funeral in 1966. The viewing took place in the house.

According to an article in the 175th Sainte Marie Anniversary book, the shop was a two-story red building with a large double door in front. The floor was dirt and there were several tall windows that faced south. The shop was a gathering place for the local men to smoke cigars, chew tobacco, spit, and solve the problems of the town. (gossip) Mon would shoe horses here by steadying the horse's foot on a round pedestal. The shoe would be heated in the intense fire, hammered into shape, and then attached to the horse's hoof with horseshoe nails, sometimes needing to trim the

hoof. Most horses were cooperative, but I imagine there were a few who resisted.

Spring was a very busy time of year when all of the plow blades needed sharpening. Refitting wooden wheels with a metal ring also consumed a large part of his time. The wheel would be soaked in cool water that was placed in a well fitted with a large wooden tub at the back of the shop. The rim would be heated and shaped and then placed on the soaking wooden wheel. The metal would shrink to fit the wheel. His grandson, Dave Wiltshire, remembers hearing that his grandfather made the roundest wheel in the country! There was also a set of large double doors that opened to the back. Mon had the area out back fenced in and he often kept pigs there.

Mathilda died in 1949 at the age of 71. Shortly thereafter, Mon sold the shop to Larry and Eugene Hartrich for their new business venture of Hartrich Brothers Elevator. Upon his retirement he worked around the house and took care of the cemetery. Mon passed in 1966 at the age of 92. He and his wife are buried in St. Mary's Cemetery. (*Continued on next page*)



ST. MARY'S SCHOOL - 1925-26

(Celeste Kell
Row 1 - Father P.J. Wimrich, Marge Barthelme, Teresa Spitzer, Mildred Ochs, Dorothy Bogard, Zita Pictor, Freda Pictor, George Moran, Alphonsine Savoy, Florence Hoffman, Herman Stoefstall, Eugene Spitzer.
Row 2 - Lucille Huerich, Mary Eloise Bolander, Bernice Huber, Gwaelene Moran, Dorothy Ochs, Herman Keller, William Pictor, Clarence Kell.
Row 3 - Alfred Kellman, Gladys Faltemier, Anna Huff, Martha Faltemier, Marie Stoefstall, Donald Spitzer, Harold Kell.
Row 4 - Albert Huerich, Doris Bentzen.
Row 5 - Dorothy Pictor, Madeline Barthelme, Elvina Kaufmann, Josie Spitzer, Louise Keller, Kathryn Savoy, Lawrence Hartrich, Joe Werth, Nicholas Ochs.
Row 6 - Agnes Pictor, Helen Pictor, Esther Savoy, Hilda Huber, Mary Pictor, Zita Bolander, Herbert Spitzer, Donald Moran, Gary Huff, Maurice Barthelme.
Row 7 - Elsie Barthelme, Lucille Huerich, Blanche Keller, Elaine Keller, Catherine Moran, George Huber, George Keller, Curtis Hartgen, Walter Stoefstall.
Row 8 - Monica Kaufmann, Marie Kaufmann, Celeste Henke, Velda Litzelman, Julia Spitzer, George Huber, Anthony Schwegler, Francis Keller, Edward Stoefstall.
Row 9 - Ursula Gangloff, Teresa Bolander, Viola Keller, Mildred Spitzer, Kathryn Werth, Urban Pictor, Marion Keller.
Row 10 - Anna Pictor, Bennett Kretzmer, Agnesa Pictor, Martin Huerich, Eugene Barthelme, Earl Huff.
Row 11 - Lucy Savoy, Urs Litzelman, Gladys Kellner, Carmen Huff, Dora Spitzer, Leo Faltemier, Eugene Richardson, Ted Ted Litzelman.
Row 12 - Mother Catherine, Sister Olivia and Sister Josephine.)

Several of Joseph and Mary Magdalen's descendants are pictured in the 1925-26 school picture. I am sure we all recognize some of these names.



The story does not stop there, however. Mon owned several lots and after his death, the children decided to keep the house so they would have a place to come back to in subsequent years. All ten children had moved from Sainte Marie at this time, many of them to the Indianapolis area. They would gather, especially during the summer months and enjoy small town life. At some point, Dave's uncle brought his friend Jim (Chief) Worthington to Sainte Marie and Chief looked after the upkeep of the houses.

Dave remembers they would take two vacations a year: one week to a lake in Indiana and one week to Sainte Marie. He was very envious of his older cousin, Herb "Sonny", who stayed with his grandparents for a few years during WWII and was able to stay several summers with Grandpa Spitzer. He also recalls being sent to the post office to collect his grandpa's mail and being told that were a lot of Spitzers in town! Which one do you mean?

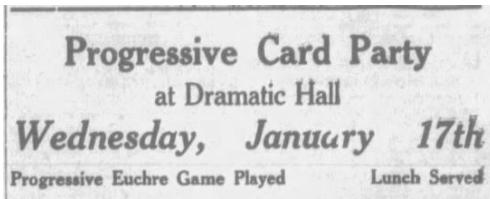
Using the wood framed wheelbarrow to get ice for his grandpa's icebox is a treasured memory for Dave. Mon never had indoor plumbing, so it was the chamber pot or the outhouse. The only problem was that the chicken house lay between the house and the privy. Many times, Dave was subjected to having chicken poop squish between his toes! Dave shares many memories that those of us who grew up there have. He remembers the old jail and he and his cousins leaving jellybeans (that they bought at Barthelme's store) on the ledge for the inmates who may have been incarcerated there. Fourth of July celebrations, playing tag, a pick-up game of baseball, and playing with neighborhood friends, are all part of his memories. Dave feels so strongly about Sainte Marie, guess what his daughter's middle name is? Marie! All of Mon and Mathilda's children are now deceased, only 21 of the grandchildren remain, but what lives on is the love of a town that gave all of us such great memories and a special childhood!

Editor's note: I want to give most of the credit for the facts in this story to Marie C. Spitzer's family history book. What a wonderful work with so many facts. The book and her hard work are why this article is extra-long. I also thought it tells a similar story of many of our Sainte Marie ancestors. Their hardships and perseverance resulted in a hometown we love and are proud to call ours. Plus, I had no idea of how many families can trace one branch of their family back to this determined couple!

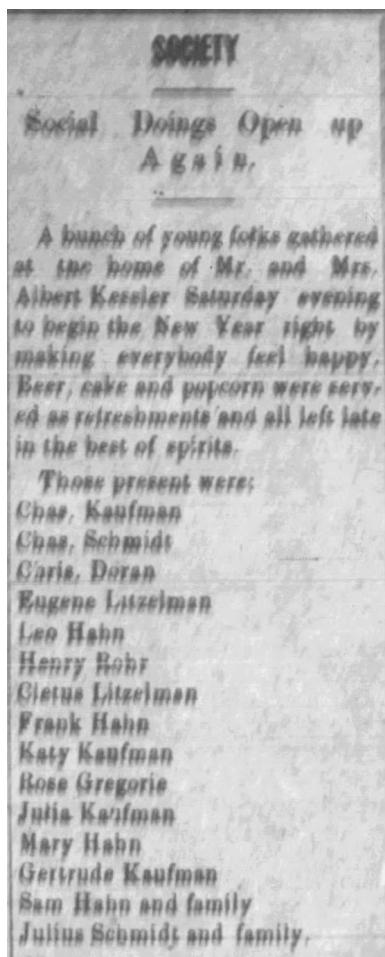


Winter Entertainment During the Turn of the (20th) Century

So, what do you do for entertainment during these long cold days of mid-winter? Scroll on your phone, attend ballgames, binge watch your favorite Netflix show? Residents of Sainte Marie during the early years of the 1900s did not have the luxury of technology and automobiles. But that doesn't mean they stayed home and went to bed with the chickens! Looking back at the pages of the Sainte Marie Tribune during January and February, we get an idea that our ancestors did not live just a life of labor.



January 12, 1909



January 5, 1912

Don't forget the fair at St. Valentine's parsonage at the Bend Saturday, February 14.

February 13, 1914

Play Pleases Large Crowd

The comedy-farce, "A Regiment of Two" given by the local Dramatic club, last Sunday evening, did not only pull the largest crowd at a one night's performance here, but pleased each individual so much that at the close of the final scene, expressions of entire satisfaction and appreciation came from the 300 in the audience almost simultaneously.

To the achieved success much credit must be given to the director of the club, Rev. Fred Meyers.

The members of the club that gave the production were Misses Josephine Ostheimer, Lena Huss, Rose Barker, Lena Alblinger Meissner, Leo Worland, Fred Huss, Leo Ostheimer, Jos. Geltz, Earl Worland and John Alblinger. Miss Julia Kaufman of Decatur, rendered a few selections on the piano during the evening.

C. E. Lamotte and wife and Mike Bolander and wife were down at Dr. and Mrs. Wenz's Sunday evening to engage in a social euchre game.

February 27, 1903

Second district, comprise the new Fifth circuit.

James Picquet, Maurice Spitzer, Theo Ochs, Joe Geltz, Jerome Hartrich, Walter Larue, Alva Waggoner, Geo. Neal, Paul Saurer, Ferd Hartrich, Don Milliman, John Alblinger, Rev Prost, Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Wilson, Misses Sophia Ulrich, Anna Hahn, Ruth Picquet, Georgine Spitzer, Elise Picquet, Lilly Lewiaand Mrs. Chas. Lewis attended the op-ra 'Parsifal' at Olney Wednesday evening.

January 29, 1909

The young folks gathered at Mrs. Anna Oeh's New Year evening and spent the time in playing games and eating popcorn and peanuts. Those present were: Misses Althea Wise, Charlene Litzelman of Ste. Marie, Chas. Weber of Wendeline, Geo. Boehl Maggie Lobmier, Frank, Annie, and Jossie Kraus, Jacob and Peter Rennier, Barbara Heiford, Joseph Meehbower, Geo. and Lizzie Michl, John and Mathilda Geiger, Wolfgang Eckl, Frank, Gertrude and Margaret Beasier.

Feb. 09, 1909

Euchre Party

at

The Dramatic Hall

Wed., January 23rd

Lunch Served after Game
Last Party of Season

SOCIETY

Social Doings Open up Again.

A bunch of young folks gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Kessler Saturday evening to begin the New Year right by making everybody feel happy. Beer, cake and popcorn were served as refreshments and all left late in the best of spirits.

Those present were:
Chas. Kaufman
Chas. Schmidt
Carrie Doran
Eugene Litzelman
Leo Hahn
Henry Rohr
Cletus Litzelman
Frank Hahn
Katy Kaufman
Rose Gregorie
Julia Kaufman
Mary Hahn
Gertrude Kaufman
Sam Hahn and family
Julius Schmidt and family,

January 8, 1909

January 18, 1918