Mary Heath Grant Awarded

Due to the efforts of Lena Burdette, the Sainte Marie Foundation was awarded a full grant from the Mary Heath Foundation. The award has been used to purchase a computer for tracking financial information of the Sainte Marie Foundation.

Lena, namesake of her great grandmother, Lena Alblinger Kirts, applied for the grant to fulfill a project for one of her classes at the University of Pennsylvania and to help the Foundation that is housed in the former home of her great grandparents, Harley and Lena Kirts. What a very loving way to give back to your heritage! Many thanks, Lena.

Foundations Museum News

The Ste. Marie Foundation Museum will be open for visitors during the October 10th Ste. Marie Farmers Market and the afternoon of November 1. This will be your last opportunity to see the display, "The Way We Were – Vintage Toys and School Days". Donna Keller and Mike Hartrich (co-curators) have plans in the works for a new exhibit all about Christmas. They are in search of items like vintage ornaments, nativity scenes, cards, recipes, sleds, ice skates, cookie cutters, etc. Anything you would find in a home decorated for Christmas from years gone by is needed. Please contact them with items you would be willing to loan to the exhibit.

*Pickup dates for loaned items from the current display are November 8 and 15 from 1-3. If this is not convenient, please contact Mike for pickup, (618.562.8678)

Nicknames

Do you know these Sainte Marie area citizens by their nicknames? See answers on last page.

Nickel Huber Pincher Menke Whitey Huber
Tuck Kirts Pete Valbert Hoover Ochs
Stenie Hartrich Wishbone Smitheny

Sainte Marie Farmers Market

October 10th marks the end of the inaugural year of the successful Sainte Marie Farmers Market. Foundation Board members Donna Keller and Sharon Tuttle put together a fantastic market held from June through mid October in Picquet Park. With support from state and local health departments, the Illinois Farmers Market Association, and the Ste. Marie Foundation, they worked tirelessly to bring a quality market to the citizens of Jasper County.

While produce was not available every week, new potatoes, sweet corn, pecans, peaches, peppers, pumpkins and many other fresh items were often featured. Baked treats were a hot commodity with vendors providing cakes, muffins, cinnamon rolls, fruit pies, and much more! Honey and homemade noodles were also big sellers.

A quality Farmers market wouldn’t be complete without local craftsmen and artisans. Some items offered include crafted rolling pins, purses, personalized tshirts, flowers made from glass plates and cups, face masks, scrubbies, and wreaths were some of the items available. Vintage and antique goodies were also featured.

Food vendors provided delicious treats for attendees. A wide variety of community organizations were able to make money by offering food and products at the market. The concession stand was opened up, cleaned out, and used for selling items as well.

The first year of the Sainte Marie Farmers Market was very successful and Donna and Sharon have plans to make it even better next year. Think ahead and plan to grow extra produce for the 2021 market. If you would like to donate for signage, banners, and other needed items, please send a check to the Sainte Marie Foundation, P. O. Box 186, Sainte Marie, IL 62459. (Memo line Farmers Market)

Great job, Donna and Sharon!
ST. MARY’S PICNIC-TO-GO REPLACES ANNUAL PRE-LABOR DAY PICNIC

*A traditional end to summer redefined due to pandemic*

Due to COVID 19, the traditional Pre-Labor Picnic held by St. Mary’s church was cancelled. To take its place, a drive through dinner was planned for September 5th. The dinner featured Sainte Marie style chicken. The crowds were hungry for the renowned chicken as **750 dinners** were sold out in about 90 minutes! Plans had been to serve from 4:00pm–7:00pm, but many people left disappointed as it sold out quickly! The chicken served alongside potato salad, baked beans, and a roll were prepared by members of St. Mary’s for a $5 donation. Water was donated by **Tractor Supply** in Newton; ice cream from the **Jasper County Farm Bureau** was sponsored by **Hartrich Meats**; the **Gas Station** donated ice. Several other anonymous donors donated to the wonderful event. Thank you all who came to Ste. Marie to enjoy the dinner and help support **St. Mary’s Church**.

Although the chicken made its first appearance over fifty-five years ago, the scrumptious chicken recipe lives on in the memories of those who grew up with it, and also for new generations of people who have heard and tasted its unique flavor. See recipe for marinade in the last issue of the Ste. Marie Foundation newsletter.

Memorial Placed at Location of St. Valentine’s Church

In August of 2019, a committee was formed by the Bend Community Club to choose a memorial honoring St. Valentine’s Church. Materials for the monument were purchased in March of this year, but due to COVID, shipping was delayed significantly. The steeple bell of the church was removed from storage, sandblasted, and powder coated. The placement of the memorial is at the end of the sidewalk that led to the entrance of the beautiful church. Landscaping will be completed when conditions are more favorable. The Bend Community Club has various fundraisers and are involved in community activities. They will be serving their famous sausage gravy and biscuits at the October 10th Ste. Marie’s Farmers Market.

Preparation of the Chickens

Looks delicious!
Ed and Nora Barthelme
Sainte Marie’s Greatest Generations
Remembering those who have made our memories sweet and our Village strong

In discussing Ste. Marie’s early years and prominent citizens, the name Barthelme comes up early and often. Michael Barthelme came to the United States in 1848, leaving behind his home in Alsace Lorraine, France. It was a time of great upheaval in war-torn France. The area had experienced housing shortages and few employment opportunities for young people such as nineteen-year-old Michael. He expanded the site of his future to the United States. Many of his relatives and neighbors had made the same trip and landed in the Midwest. Alsace Lorraine was the source of many of our pioneer families.

He settled in the area west of Ste. Marie near what is now Maynard and Elfrieda Kaufmann’s farm, six years after his arrival in New Orleans. He married Mary Anna Spitzer in 1854 and they became parents of twelve children. He was one of the most affluent and well-respected farmers in Jasper County.

Their youngest child, Edward George Barthelme, was born in 1879. In 1905, he married Mary Eleanor (Nora) Keller who was born in 1882, the daughter of Michael and Mary (Jacquet) Keller.

In 1908, they purchased the large white house across the road and east of the Catholic Church from Ed’s brother-in-law, Mike Richards. Ed’s sister, Magdalena had died in 1903 and Mike no longer needed the large home. They were blessed with nine children: Gilbert, Francis (Bud) Mildred (Sis), Eugene, Eloise, Madeline, Marjorie (Marge), Joseph, and Olivia (Leve). Several of their children were lifelong citizens of Sainte Marie. Ed and Nora were grandparents to 26 and had many great-grandchildren! Ed and Nora lived in this house for the rest of their lives. Their daughter, Olivia (Leve) Sheridan lived with her parents while her husband, Leonard, was gone during WWII and upon his return, the young couple moved to their newly built home near the river bridge. In 1963, the house was sold to Thomas and Serena Kaufmann and is unoccupied at this time.

Ed worked at his brother Charles’ Barthelme Mercantile for several years and then opened his first store in 1910. In 1914, Ed and John Keller bought the general store from his brother, Charles. In later years, Ed bought out Keller and ran the store with the help of his sons, Gib and Bud. Barthelme’s Grocery was always the place to get a fair deal. Ed was open to trading, and often exchanged chickens, eggs, butter, and a bounty of trapped animals for goods. Ed was always good to his customers, and he would make certain his customers did not go hungry; oftentimes extending credit when he knew it could not be repaid. Nora shared his generous heart and often gave food to those down on their luck or travelling through town. Ed also ventured out to the countryside in a huckster wagon selling wares to those who were not able to spare time to go into town. Jeannie Barthelme Regas, daughter of Bud and Evelyn Barthelme, remembers going to her grandparents’ house after church on Sunday and cutting noodles that Nora already had drying.

Certainly, most children of the time remember the full sack of candy you received when putting your money on the counter. It did not matter if it was a penny or a nickel, you walked away with an overflowing bag!

In 1946, the grocery store burnt to the ground. Ed’s sons Bud and Gib reopened the store and ran it until the late 1960’s. Ed was involved in the community and was the president of the Ste. Marie State Bank from 1930 until his death.

Nora died from diabetes complications in 1947 and Ed died from a heart ailment in 1957. They are buried in St. Mary’s Cemetery. The Barthelme name will long be a part of Ste. Marie history.

Over 20 years ago, Jeannie, brother Ted, son Jon and daughter-in-law, Monika, and her cousin Judy Alblinger and husband Rene visited their Alsatian cousins in France with the mayor proclaiming it “Barthelme Day”. A few years later, 40 of those cousins came to Las Vegas and met up with many of their American cousins for several days. She remembers “an unforgettable few days.” Jeannie also mentioned how blessed she feels being raised in Ste. Marie surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends. Everyone knew each other and cared for each other. Most of us growing up in Ste. Marie can relate to that!

The Barthelme Store in 1962

Candy counter recreated by Margo Regas for the biennial Barthelme Reunion. Barthelme’s candy is a wonderful memory of many who grew up in Ste. Marie.
4-H Clubs in Sainte Marie

4-H clubs have a long history in our little village. The first club was founded in 1929 by Mrs. Merle Yost and she was assisted by Mrs. Babe Brown and Elizabeth Picquet (later Bolander) and consisted of 18 girls. In the May 21, 1929 issue of the Newton Press, we find: “The Ste. Marie Clothing Club met for the first time in the Liberty Theater on May 11. We have 18 members and are: Club leader, Mrs. G.C. Brown, President, Catherine Moran, Vice President, Mary Pictor, Secretary, Elaine Keller. Members please bring your 15 cents for clothing club manuals.” And “The chorus from Clothing Clubs of Jasper County are planning to enter the state contest at Urbana. The chorus consists of Bernie Huff, Louise Keller, Mary Pictor and Madeline Bartheleme.” Another 4-H club formed of Sainte Marie girls was the Mothers Helpers 4-H Club. It was in existence during the 1940s. Until the 1970s, the 4H clubs were divided into clubs for boys and clubs for girls. The club for girls, Helpful Little Hands, has been around for many years. Projects girls could take in the early 60’s were sewing, baking, cooking, room improvement, outdoor cooking, and photography.

The 1962 Sainte Marie Sesquicentennial Book noted that the officers for that year were Judy Litzelman, President; Carol Swisher, Vice president; Kay Bartheleme, Secretary; and Bonnie Hunzinger, Treasurer. Leaders in 1962 were Melba Rose Sheridan and assisting in the sewing classes were Bernita Bartheleme and Marcella Strutner.

Boys had their club and were able to take projects such as crops, swine, photography, and dog care. The 1962 officers of the Chore Boys were: Anthony Reis, President; Ed Kaufmann, Vice president; Florent Ochs, Secretary/Treasurer; Eddie Faltemier, Assistant Secretary; Eddie Reis, Reporter. Leaders were Theodore Kocher, Lawrence Helregel, and Vic Ochs.

Today the Helpful Little Hands are going strong. Leaders are Nancy Nix Ochs and Elaine Zwilling who took over from Ed Zwilling and Phil Steber. They had 14 members last year who took a variety of projects such as rabbits, cat care, photography, natural resources, cooking, horticulture, and sewing. Some of the Helpful Little Hands 4-H club’s activities include helping to flag graves of veterans, playing bingo with nursing home and assisted living homes, cleaning up after Cork and Pork, shopping for Toys for Kids, and working at the 4-H food stands at the Jasper County Fair. They have had much success with their projects at the county level, with some advancing to state fair competition. Today children as young as kindergarten can join as Cloverbuds and become full members when they are 8. We are truly fortunate to have such a long history of 4-H in Ste. Marie.
Obscure Jasper County

What have the Foundation Board members been up to lately? History lover Jason Warfel has been busy producing well-researched videos about little-known historical stories of our own Jasper County. Jason has one daughter, Cora and is co-owner of Kuhl’s Trailer Sales, Inc. He has long been fascinated with history and attributes his love of it to some of his former history teachers. He grew up on the very southern edge of Jasper County and attended Ste. Marie Elementary, East Jr. High, and Newton Community High School. He attended the University of Illinois at Springfield minoring in History. While attending college, he worked for the U.S. Parks Department and was a guide at the Abraham Lincoln home in Springfield. After school, he ventured to Washington, D.C. where he worked in politics. Coming back to Jasper County, he and his brother, Chris, assumed the operation of the business his grandparents started in 1973. Jason is also on the Jasper County Board and the Jasper County CEO Board.

While researching online, Jason came across the story of Hale Johnson, the vice-president candidate who was murdered in Bogota. Realizing there was a lot of Jasper County history he was not aware of, he figured there were quite a few others who did not know local history. He decided to produce videos entitled “Obscure Jasper County” that tell of these stories. Jason starts with a story idea he was given or came across. He looks for history that is not well known to other Jasper County citizens. He spends a lot of time researching the information, asking questions, and shooting video from multiple locations, depending on the availability of materials and pertinent artifacts. The narrative starts out rather lengthy and he then tells the story in as concise a manner as possible. Jason does all the work himself other than the background music. He comes up with a video that is about five minutes long. He completes the videos for educational purposes so that others will learn of and appreciate the unique stories of Jasper County. He welcomes suggestions for future topics, and he may have soon have a topic or two that will interest those who enjoy Sainte Marie history.

Thank you, Jason for making these stories available to us!

“Why tell these stories and do these videos? As it is said at the Lincoln Presidential Museum, “Our past illuminates our future, it tells us who we are and how we got here. As long as these stories are told their experience becomes our experience and our past lives on in us.” - Jason Warfel

Thanks to Mindy Hartke of the online Jasper County Daily News feature for help with this article.

To watch these videos, please click on these links:
Hale Johnson, Vice-President Candidate Murdered in Bogota, Illinois
The Silent “T” of Lis, Illinois
The Derixon Family
The Fox that Got Away – Fox Township, Jasper County, Illinois
The Lawless Lawman of Jasper County – Lewis W. Jourdan
From the Depths of the Earth to the Heights of the Sky – Lowell R. Bayles
Spanning the Centuries – Embarrass River Bridge

Transitions

Robert “Bob” Frye, 77
December 3, 1942 - June 26, 2020
Bob was a true supporter of all things Ste. Marie. He and his wife, Tammy Bailey owned Olde World Reflections, a Christmas supply business, based in Ste. Marie. They were instrumental in starting and helping with the hanging flower baskets that adorn the village including this year. He is survived by his wife, Tammy, and three children.

Marie Spitzer, 98
May 5, 1922 – September 10, 2020
Marie was born in Ste. Marie the daughter of Nicholas and Charlotte Spitzer. Marie earned her B.S. in Nursing and worked for 35 years for the Veterans Administration. Marie was heavily involved in the writing of the 1987 Ste. Marie Sesquicentennial book, “A Chronicle of the Years 1837-1987”. Marie is survived by nephews David and Mark Spitzer and their families.

Edith “Ede” Dorr Hartrich, 93
January 20, 1926 – December 16, 2019
Ede was born and raised in University City, MO. She married Eugene “Bud” Hartrich in 1946, and they celebrated 54 years of marriage. Bud passed in 2000. Ede was beloved mother to 10, grandmother to 19, and great grandmother to 16.

Ste. Marie Tribune March 30, 1917
Educating the Youth of Sainte Marie Assumption School
The first in a series of articles about schools in Sainte Marie

The Assumption School, also known as the Brick School, had a short existence as to the years it housed students, but it lives long in the memories of those of us who were fortunate to attend our primary school years here. Built in 1938, it was 64’ x 53’ and modeled in the Romanesque style to complement St. Mary’s Church which was on an adjoining lot to the west. It was a one-story building with four classrooms, an office, and two restrooms. The basement housed heating equipment, a coal room, and a playroom for the children during inclement weather. This later became the cafeteria. Outside there were swing sets, a merry go round, and monkey bars. The large playground enabled students space to run, play Red Rover, and jump rope to their hearts content. When noon came though, kids stopped in their tracks to pray the Angelus as Jud Cameron rang the church bells. The last classes were held here in 1965–1966 as a new first – eighth grade building was constructed two blocks south of the school. The Brick School was torn down in 1984 to make way for future parking and the classrooms were no longer needed.

Personal Memories from Assumption School

- Ted Bartheleme remembers that he and Keith Harrich found a dead rabbit, stuck into the school through a window and placed the rabbit in the nun’s drawer. She opened the drawer and then shut it. Of course, she knew who had pulled the prank...he and Keith were the only town boys in the eighth grade. Blackboard cleaning was on their chore list that evening! He also remembers being taught to square dance in the basement by a nun and that cleaning paraffin off windows is exceedingly difficult!
- The library being not much larger than a walk-in closet is what comes to mind for Jean Bartheleme Regas. Even though it was small, she found so much of the outside world through those books. She loved reading The Bobsey Twins in first grade.
- Sally Sheridan Cohorst remembers everyone forgetting to put their names on their first-grade spelling books, and she ended up with a book with bad handwriting and incorrect answers. She also remembers trying to bounce others on the teeter totter and putting down a stick so other people on the merry go round would pick it up when they came around.
- Hearing that JFK that had been shot stands out as an unforgettable memory to Christine Mullinax, Cindy Moran Tipton, and Cindy Carlson Sheridan.
- Christine also remembers going to daily morning mass at the beginning of the day and loving the sound of footsteps on the wood floor and the feel of the wooden bannisters.
- In the 2012 175th Anniversary Celebration book, Ken Stone remembers Sister Veronica, his third-grade teacher knowing he needed some encouragement after a dismal first and second grade experience. She recognized his coloring skills and set him on a road to learning. He also remembers Henry Kirts being a “wise but laid-back teacher” who taught his students about the real world.
- A nun ringing the hand bell to signal the end of recess and lunch, lunch being served by Rose Schwartz and Marge Litzelman, and hanging coats in the downstairs cloak room are things that stand out in the mind of Mike Harrich.
- Kathy Hahn Slankard mentioned the cooks, too, as a memory and attending first, second, and eight grades in the school. Her sister, Annette Hahn Kirts, remembers Bill Stone taking one huge step from the bottom of the steps to the top on the back staircase.
- Judy Millsap fondly recalls art and music with Mrs. Marilyn Ochs Maginn. She taught art and music. Lunches were served by the eighth-grade students (fun, except for the scalding hot dishwater), and nervously trying to find a spinach loving friend to give her cooked spinach to. She remembers Mary Beth Stone ended up with a large serving of the green veggie on those days! She has also thanked
Sister Ruthann for admonishing her friends and her to quit talking and start getting serious about their schoolwork. Judy is very thankful for the Catholic school setting education she received.

- My mother, Rosemary Hartrich Mullinax, often told of the time when she was given a brand-new snowsuit from one of the stores in town and she was so proud of it. Her mother reminded her to be careful with it as times were tough and the suit was a luxury. (think 1930s) Apparently, my mom got too close to the coal burning stove in the classroom and burnt a hug hole in her new snowsuit. She dreaded the trip home!

- Being able to go to the White School down the block for music with Marilyn Maginn was a highlight for me. She taught us the popular songs of the mid-sixties and we loved it! Loving my first-grade teacher, Sr. Mary Lois, and hanging on her every word is a favorite memory of mine. (Gina Mullinax Fox)

- Cindy Sheridan Carlson remembers Sister Ruthann playing softball with the students and her robes flying behind her, being on the teeter totter with her on one end and two students on the other, and when it was cold, huddling together with Sister pulling her cloak around them.

- Lunchtime experiences come up quite often when talking about Brick School memories. Phyllis Hartrich Moraga remembers spending time remaining in the cafeteria instead of playing outside like others due to uneaten food on her plate. She and Nancy Nix Ochs learned the trick of stuffing your milk carton in that basement!

- Mary Wagner Ochs and Carol Ochs Kocher also have long lasting memories of being made to eat all of your lunch.

- Cindy Moran Tipton and Cheryl Moran Cruse remember two grades per classroom, and because of that you could get your homework done while the other grade was being taught their lessons.

- Ginger Bigard Robins recalls the time she put her mashed potatoes in one napkin, then another, and other because they kept oozing out! Then she had to hold her “napkins” very carefully to avoid having Sister catch her when putting up her tray. She also suggested that there was an art to putting your stuffed milk carton in the trash without the telltale “thud”!

- Receiving a rap on the knuckles from Sister Mary Lois was something that sticks in the mind of Don Hartrich.

- Cheryl Moran Cruse and Phyllis Hartrich Moraga also remember spending time outdoors playing jump sticks and games on the monkey bars.

- Taking a fried egg sandwich to school and eating it after mass was something Bob Keller remembers.

- Students played outside in all kinds of weather, and the girls were able to wear pants under their dresses when it was really cold. Of course, you had to remove them once you were inside Nancy Nix Ochs recalls.

Most would agree that the time spent at this special school was full of good memories and we were blessed to experience it.

**Cork and Pork Festival Update**

Like so many other festivals and activities, the Cork and Pork Festival had to be cancelled due to COVID 19 regulations. Sponsors of the event did not let that stop them from donating to a worthy cause! Lincoln’s Place, an all-inclusive playground located in Peterson Park in Newton needed help reaching the goal of raising $175,000. Many of the Festival’s sponsors continued their generous ways and donated $9,692 for the playground. That brings the total given by the Cork and Pork Festival to Lincoln’s Place to $13,692! Because of the volunteers who work each year, Hartrich Meats, and the Jasper County Pork Producers, Cork and Pork Festival has been able to give back a total of $127,692 to local groups and organizations in Jasper County. Next year’s date for the Festival is July 10, 2021.

**Welcome, Welcome, Welcome!**

Welcome to new Sainte Marie residents! We have several new additions to our village, and we want to extend them a sincere welcome.

- Matthew & Alexis Schaich
  Former Maurice & Maxine Calvert residence
- Chris Brody & Cheyla Lamb
  Former Louis Valbert residence (Clarence & Juanita Wade residence)
- Brett & Bree Bosel
  Former Brent McClure residence (Mildred Hoechereel residence)
- Janet Chapman
  Former Eric Lamb residence (Chet & Mary Jean Huss residence)
- Stu & Jorrie Heiser
  Former Eugene & Eufala Bigard residence
- Derek & Hannah Hemrich
  Former Bud & Connie Kirts residence
- Makenzie Helmink
  Former Neenah Bogard residence
- Keidrah Hardiek
  Former Gloria Litzelman residence (Snook and Marge Hartrich residence)

**Nicknames**

- Ralph (Nickel) Huber
- Gene (Pincher) Menke
- Francis (Whitey) Huber
- Fred (Tuck) Kirts
- Louie (Pete Valbert)
- Wilmer (Hoover) Ochs
- Bill (Wishbone) Smithenry
- Rosemary (Stenie) Hartrich
Sainte Marie Farmers Market

The final Farmers Market of the season featured the above vendors and artists.