



Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's fall season 2010

Volume 3, Issue 4

SUMMER UPDATE

Sept. 4 Piano Concert

The **Jim Litzelman** benefit concert on Saturday drew nearly 400 people – yes, you read that right. The church was nearly full, with scattered seats here and there! Jim played a marvelous concert – we were all just blown away! He played Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Brahms and he played it all from memory. Very impressive! The acoustics in St. Mary's church were perfect – we used no mikes except for remarks at the beginning. Sainte Marie has produced some outstanding people, and Jim Litzelman is certainly one of them. His efforts raised over \$3000 for the Foundation, and we are very grateful.

A DVD is available - \$20 if picked up at the Sainte Marie State Bank; \$25 if we have to mail it to you.



Thanks to **Rose Sunderland**, Jim's NCHS choral teacher, who stepped in at the last minute to introduce him when his former piano teacher, Sandy Nichols, had to bow out.

And especially, thanks to **Father Al** and **St. Mary's Church** for allowing us to use this perfect facility.

Some memorable moments:

-Jim's face when he saw the crowd that FILLED the church – he was so moved seeing all who had come.

-Jim talking about how important Ste. Marie was to him – how he loved growing up there and how it helped to have come from such a great little town.

-Children gingerly touching the beautiful 9-foot grand piano after the concert ended.



*The Litzelman family filled the first three pews in the church. **The Don Litzelman family** paid for the rental of the grand piano.*

*For his final musical number, Jim honored **Don and Joan Kirts***



***Heneberry (PA)** (pix at left) with a lovely piano version of "Danny Boy" -- as a belated thank you for taking him in for several months when he first started his graduate work at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.*

The Reception

The audience gathered at the American Legion to congratulate Jim. It was truly a touching occasion!



*Jim greets **Don and Betty Ochs**, Ste. Marie area residents, at the reception.*



*(l – r) **Maurice Calvert, Anna Lou Stone, Annette Hahn Kirts and Maxine Calvert**, all of Ste. Marie, gather at the refreshment table.*



***Sharon Reis Ade** (lower right) of Moline, IL, (who also went on to major in piano in college) brought her family (and friend **Hans Anderson**) for the occasion. She is the daughter of **Julius and Gladys Reis** of rural Ste. Marie.*

SUMMER UPDATE continued...

June 25 Hartrich/Ochs Wedding

Becca Hartrich, daughter of **Tony and Janet Hartrich (Hartrich Meats)**, married **Phil Ochs**, and their wedding will long be remembered in Ste. Marie. Instead of hiring a limousine, the couple used seven local golf carts (decorated by **Annette Lynch, Caleb Lynch, Clayton and Brady Reis and Maxine Calvert**) to squire their wedding party around town after the church ceremony! Here's what Janet wrote after the wedding: *"Becca's friends had a marvelous time at the Foundation House. They all loved the house and Ste. Marie! They came from California, Washington, Minnesota, South Carolina, North Carolina, New York City, Chicago, Indpls. and South Bend, IN. Thanks for organizing the Foundation - couldn't have done this without your efforts."*

1950 Class Reunion July 17

Organized by **Evelyn Geltz Kocher**, the reunion was held at the home of **Ron and Carolyn Kirts**. Since it was "Ste. Marie Chicken Barbecue" night, Evelyn purchased the luscious-tasting chicken from the **Sons of the American Legion**, and we all feasted royally.

Seven of 10 graduates attended (two are deceased). This was the first time we have been together since our grade school graduation. There was much laughter as we told our life stories and mused about growing up in and around Ste. Marie.



(l-r) Vincent Zuber, Pat Reis, Millie Kaufman Zuber, Evelyn Geltz Kocher, Jud Cameron, Don Bogard and Ron Kirts.

All the guys had served in the armed services during the Korean Conflict – but only **Don Bogard** was actually in Korea. **Millie Kaufman Zuber** had the most children (8) with **Vinnie Zuber** close behind (7). It was a great evening, and we recommend other Ste. Marie grade school classes do the same. We would have met at the Foundation House, but it was not available that evening.

Barthelme Reunion July 17-18

(From **Mary Jo Martin**, daughter of **Walt and Eloise Spitzer**)
Fifty-two members of the **Barthelme** family met in Ste. Marie the weekend of July 17-18. Mass was

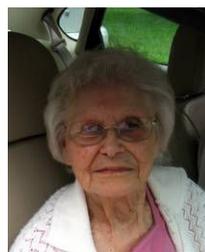
celebrated Saturday evening at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in honor of the living and deceased members of the Barthelme family. Later, many attendees met at the **The Hideout** to eat dinner and chat.

On Sunday, food, games, and prizes highlighted the afternoon reunion event. Family members also welcomed the opportunity to identify old pictures, to reconnect and to share family memories. Attendees traveled from France, Colorado, Texas, Indiana, Tennessee and many parts of Illinois to celebrate with their Barthelme relatives.



Joyce Ablinger Mast (CO), Pat Reis (Chicago) and Jean Barthelme Regas (Indpls.) meet before the reunion. Joyce and Pat had not seen each other for nearly 50 yrs.

Joyce Ablinger Mast (CO) and **Judy Ablinger Brangeon (France)** and some of their children and grandchildren and **Jean Barthelme Regas** and her daughter, **Margo (Indpls.)** all stayed at the Foundation House during the weekend. Many family members stopped by the House to see the numerous historical pictures and drawings displayed in the recently renovated house. It was a fun time for all. Plans are underway for the next Barthelme reunion to be held in Ste. Marie in 2012.



Marjorie Barthelme Hartrich stopped at the Foundation House on her way to the Sunday Barthelme reunion. Marge now lives in an assisted living facility in Decatur near her son Dave. We miss seeing her in Ste. Marie.

Sunday of Labor Day Weekend – Sept. 5

The St. Mary's Church Picnic on Sunday was very successful. The weather was PERFECT, sunny but with a cool breeze. Lots of connecting at the church picnic, as always. Food was delicious, as always. And there's nothing like those great pork burgers doused in a special barbeque sauce. Yum!

The Foundation House was open for viewing from 1-5 p.m. People flowed through the house during the whole afternoon, and we received many comments about how great the house looks with our many renovations, both inside and outside.

Ron Kirts, who grew up in the House and is now Foundation Board vice-president, talks to visitors. His sister, **Joan Kirts Heneberry**, also served as a host for part of the afternoon open house.



Our big decision this summer: the Board decided to save the garage. That little building, which matches the shape of the house, has a huge hole in the roof, but we hope to have it repaired by winter. Proceeds of the benefit concert will aid this effort.



Judy and Joan Litzelman Cunningham (yes, they married unrelated Cunninghams!) stayed at the Foundation House with their families during the Labor Day weekend.



*About half of the Wedding Pictures Exhibit was on display, and people flocked to the sun porch to view the popular exhibit, created by **Annette Reis Lynch** as part of the 2009 homecoming event.*

To Book the Foundation House

Maxine Calvert 618-455-3227 is now your contact if you wish to book the Foundation House. Thanks to Sandy Hartrich for helping us during the first year.

Jim Baker and Clarence Keller discuss the old Ste. Marie musket, donated by **Mark Handzel** (Northbrook, IL), on display in the dining room. We hope to include many other artifacts like this one in future years.



Flower Baskets A Big Hit!

The four cascading-flower baskets at the Ste. Marie intersection have created quite a stir this summer. One morning, a visitor stopped his car, whipped out a camera and stood in the middle of the street taking pictures!

People question HOW the baskets looked so vibrant all summer long, despite great heat and drought. The answer: lots of watering! Thanks to **Maurice and Maxine Calvert, Ron Kirts and Bob and Tammy Frye** who have taken week-long stints of daily watering with a special formula, devised by Maxine and Tammy.

Update: Foundation House Summer Work

The sun porch renovation is moving along but taking much longer than anticipated. **Ron Kirts** and **Bob Helregel** painted the ceiling after much scraping and caulking. It looks beautiful. **Maxine and Maurice Calvert** applied a vinyl wall covering to the walls. Very nice! Then, they all attacked the floor – a painted surface that was badly worn. They decided to sand off the paint so they could stain and varnish. It turned out to be a massive job that is unfinished. Still left, the windows (lots of them!!) and wood that needs to be sanded, stained and varnished.

The Loretta Zuber Memorial Garden in the front of the house is growing well. Maurice and Maxine put in a timed watering system, which is why the flowers all looked so great over the Labor Day weekend!

Plans for next year: up to TEN baskets. Sponsors are already on board. Cost is \$100 for the season and the sponsors will have their names listed on the old bank windows – for all to see! Call Maxine Calvert 618-455-3227 if you are interested. A few baskets are still available.

We Get Mail

Rose Sunderland wrote: *We commented as we drove into Ste. Marie (on Sept. 4 for the concert) how great the town looked. Clean, well kept, and it showed that the town is proud of its place in the world.*

Dick Cameron wrote: *Great newsletter. Keep up the fantastic work. The place looks amazing.*

Sept 4 Piano Concert



Pianist **Jim Litzelman** poses with his niece **Hannah** and nephews (l-r) **Ty and Derek Litzelman**.

We Get Mail continued

From **Judy (Bever) Smith**: *To all involved: Congratulations on your wonderful success at the benefit concert last Saturday (Sept. 4). It was an unforgettable afternoon of magnificent music rarely heard so close to home. It made me feel good to see so many people! You have a special community, and they are lucky to have you and such a talented "hometown boy."*

Margie Keller Mason writes: *My mother, Louise, still lives in rural Ste. Marie. My dad taught in the old white school house (where the Parish Hall is now) along with Mr. Henry Kirts. I have fond memories of walking up to the brick school house for lunch with my dad and classmates.*

Thanks

-To **Mark Bolander**, owner of **Rex Vault Service, Inc.** and mayor of Newton, who donated a set of steps for the back door of the Foundation House. The former steps were badly worn and were discarded when we had the foundation of the house repaired in 2007. The new steps allow us to exit the house near our lovely flower garden. Mark's grandparents and parents were Ste. Marie folks – and we are sure they would be happy to know that he has been so generous to their hometown.

-To **DM Manufacturing**, owned by **Don Geltz**, for new clothes line poles at the Foundation House. We intend to be "green" and hang our bed linens outside to dry in that great SM breeze.

- To "**Ste. Marie Open**" Golfers – Thanks to the guys who participated in this golf outing (sponsored by the elevator) and decided that the money they had left over should go to the Foundation "for your heritage projects." We received an envelope full of cash that added up to over \$300! Thank you, golfers!

-To **John Handzel** (CA) who expertly pruned trees at the Foundation House while visiting Ste. Marie this summer.

Yes, I want to help the Sainte Marie Foundation. Enclosed is my check for:
 ___ \$20 ___ \$40 ___ \$100 ___ \$1000 Other \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (Home) _____ (Work) _____ (Cell) _____

E-Mail Address _____

My donation is *in memory of*: (print) _____

Or *in honor of*: (print) _____

(Names will be included in the quarterly Foundation newsletter and/or annual report.)

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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 at patreisprpr@yahoo.com. We reserve the right to edit.

Because you get this as an e-mail newsletter, you get a BONUS PAGE (actually two). So keep on reading.....

Bonus Page (for Ste. Marie and our e-mail subscribers)

We had a lot of news to share from an active summer, so I am adding this page for Ste. Marie (where we do not mail) and for those who get the newsletter via e-mail.

SEPTEMBER 4 RECEPTION AFTER THE CONCERT



Glenda Reis Schwartz (Effingham) and **Judy Rohr Wilson** (Hoffman Estates) at the Sept. 4 reception.

Cookies, baked by Ste. Marie Foundation volunteers and Jim's aunts (the Litzelman sisters!), were very plentiful for all our guests. Special thanks to the **Ste. Marie American Legion** who donated their upstairs meeting room for the reception.



Mike Hartrich chats with Jim's sister, **Susan Litzelman McClurg** (TX), who took many great pictures of the event. Mike, retired NCHS athletic director, is secretary of the Foundation.

More "We Get Mail"

We love getting all those notes from you. Here's some that we didn't have room for in the main body of the newsletter:

From Betty Slack, Grayslake, IL

*I am writing on behalf of my mother, **Theresa Spitzer Slack**, who was born in Ste. Marie in 1918, the second daughter of **Joseph and Ida Ochs Spitzer**. In 1936, Theresa Spitzer moved north to work as a mother's helper for a family in Highland Park, IL. Her sister **Emma Spitzer Cameron** was already living in Highland Park. Theresa married George Slack in 1941 and they had three children: Stephen (born 1942, deceased 1966), Betty (b. 1947), and Greg (b. 1955). For many years Theresa and George and their family enjoyed many visits to Ste. Marie—at least one week of vacation every summer was spent in Ste. Marie—to visit Grandpa **Joe Spitzer** and **Emma and Jud Cameron** and their family. George passed away in 1992, and Theresa is now living in Grayslake with her daughter, Betty. She still keeps in*

*touch with a few people in Ste Marie, especially her cousin, **Josephine Spitzer**.*

From Father Kurt Hartrich, St. Peter's, Chicago

I'm really impressed with all the Foundation has done and is doing. Keep up the great work. Stop by St. Peter's sometime soon for a visit, even if it is brief! (Ed. note: Father Kurt, who loved visiting his grandmother in Ste. Marie, is Mayor Bill Hartrich's cousin.)

From Michele Helregel Vogt, Teutopolis:

I was in Ste. Marie on Saturday and Sunday (Sept. 4 -5) for the festivities, and I feel so very lucky to be a Ste. Marie native! Having been raised in such a wonderful little town with wonderful family, friends and neighbors, I know that I am truly blessed. Jim Litzelman was two years ahead of me in school, and I remember the magnificent talent he had then and continues to share all of these years later. His concert truly gave me goosebumps, and I also enjoyed the talks you (Pat) and Mrs. Sunderland gave. Mrs. Sunderland was a teacher of many, including me, and it was so wonderful to see and hear her on Saturday.

Thank you for all that you and the many others do for Ste. Marie through the Foundation. My Dad [Bob Helregel] continues to make me so proud with his work at the Foundation House. The amount of time, talent, and energy that you all put into our hometown is greatly appreciated!

From Jan Smitley, Charleston, IL

It's wonderful to have another GREAT PIANIST to add to my "special memory life bank!" (Ed. note: Jan saw Van Cliburn many years ago when he was just starting his piano career.) I couldn't thank Dr. Litzelman enough for this most memorable event. He is truly blessed.

What a successful event for your home town. I will look forward to the next event you all plan in the future.

I also want to thank you for your tour of the Foundation House ---- "so homey!" I can see that you and other volunteers have spent a great deal of time in making this a special place to visit and/or spend a night. A special place for a special town! :-)

From Bill Schwartz, Chicago

The transformation that has taken place [in the Foundation House] is astounding. What a wonderful place to relax and have a great visit to the past. Remarkable - and a job well done. Kudos!

News Notes

Over 100 people signed our guest book at the Foundation House on Sunday, Sept. 5 during the Open House, and we know that many others did not sign in. Here are some of the people who were in town for the weekend (*Ed. Note: Towns are in IL unless noted. I apologize if I misspelled names because the handwriting was sometimes so difficult to read*):

Eloise Kaufman Yerkes, Evergreen Park
Margueritte (Peggy) Huff Wilke, Homer Glen
Derek & Elizabeth Martell, Newton
Nancy Kraus, Oblong
Dorothy Bloom, Olney
Gina Lynn, Olney
Ruth Matheny, Olney
M/M Richard Cameron, Glenwood
M/M Mike Cameron, Marshall
Don/Ruth Hartrich Matheny, Olney
Rick/Peg Cameron Cochran, Wheeler
Carolyn Hartrich/Gary Doll, Olney
Rhonda & Tyler Stone, Robinson
Bill & Evelyn Radke Null, Joliet
Dave & Earleen Hartrich, Decatur
Ed and Carole Schafer, Newton
Colleen & Mike Fagnani, St. Louis
Pat Zuber Gassman, Olney
Louis & Anna Marie (Ochs) Thies, Effingham
Genevieve (Ochs) Smith, Dallas, TX
Sarah Johnson, Charleston
Ron & Jo Gentry, Cicero, IN
Joan Rohr, Olney
Jody Warstler, Carmel, IN
Judy Spitzer Ripberger, Indianapolis, IN
M/M Herb Spitzer, Marion, IN
Jim Kocher, Newton
Fred/Stacy Wiltshire, Indianapolis, IN
Brad/Thresa Robards, Dieterich
Irene Spitzer Franklin, Indianapolis, IN
Marcella Smith, Thomasboro, IL
Jim and Joyce Ritz Baker, Tuscola
Wade/Amy Tarr, Ste. Marie
Nancy Ochs, West Liberty
Bob/Sally Cohorst, Effingham
Pam Geller, Memphis, TN
Kathy Thorson, Philo
Aimee Wheat, Olathe, KS
Larry/Barb Thoele, Teutopolis
Rosemary Spitzer Sellberg, Niles
Joe/LouAnna Schalasky, Evansville, IN
Dan/Darnell Schalasky
Rose Gangloff, Oblong
John/Pat Litzelman Mammoser, Arthur
Bob/Judy Litzelman Cunningham, Springfield
Joan Litzelman Cunningham, Springfield



Annette Reis Lynch recorded the Sept. 4 concert and has made a DVD of the event, with interviews from some of Jim Litzelman's teachers as well as his parents. Annette is multi-talented, as many of you know. A retired Charleston, IL, junior high science teacher, she has esthetics and massage therapy licenses and provides her services only in Ste. Marie. 618-455-3243

The Hartrich/Ochs Wedding June 25



(l-r) Clayton & Brady Reis and Caleb Lynch show off one of the seven golf carts they decorated for the wedding "parade around town".

COMING UP

Saturday, Nov. 27

Decorate and Light the Christmas Tree

Time to be announced

Sponsored by the Community Club and the Foundation

And something new.....

Christmas Caroling in Ste. Marie

Date to be announced – sometime in December.

Sponsored by the Community Club.

Watch for an announcement on the post office bulletin board.

Here's some news from your editor.....

Summarized from FarmWeek, Sept. 5, 2010

East Central Illinois recently received \$12 million in USDA broadband funding that will provide "an information super highway" to rural communities in 11 counties, including Jasper County. There is also some state and private money that amounts to some \$24 million for the project.

I have already contacted Ken Larimore, the Jasper County economic development director, to tell him not to forget Ste. Marie. You can do the same (klarimore@uiuc.edu) or contact others who might have influence in bringing broadband to SM.

To me, this is very much like the REA (Rural Electrification Project) that brought electricity to rural areas during the Great Depression. Without broadband, rural areas cannot compete in today's fast-paced world.

Pat Reis, editor