



Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's fall season 2012

Volume 5, Issue 4

The 175th Celebration

Well, the dust has settled, the big event is over and life in Sainte Marie goes on. The accolades keep coming in: "Wonderful" "Awesome" "Best ever" . Only the extreme heat hampered the most fabulous celebration ever on June 29, 30 and July 1. Congrats to the Community Club Planning Committee for a job very well done! More inside.....You weren't able to come? Well, we have several solutions for you.

Video Available

The videos of the 175th weekend celebration are available and may be picked up at the Sainte Marie State Bank. For \$25, people will receive two DVDs: the first has small video clips showing highlights of many of the events held throughout the weekend. The second DVD is a video of the entire parade.

People will enjoy having the DVDs to see how they looked in 2012! There are many young teenagers included in parts of the Highlights DVD. In 25 years they will be around 40 years old! What a great keepsake for all ages. And if you could not attend, then this is your way of seeing what you missed!

Cost: \$25.00 for the 2 DVDs; \$30.00 if they are to be mailed. Send your request to Annette Lynch, PO Box 61, Sainte Marie, IL 62459, with check made payable to the Ste. Marie Community Club or just stop in at the Bank and pick one up.

As many of you know, **Annette Reis Lynch** is an experienced videographer who has created many DVD videos, while winning several 1st place awards in contests at Eastern Illinois University and Lake Land College. She made the videos of the Foundation's **Jim Litzelman Piano Concert** in 2010 and the **Dorothy Helregel Mathious Vocal Concert** in 2011, both wonderful keepsakes of memorable events.

CD Slide Show

Another remembrance of the weekend, **Jeanine Weddell**, the photographer who took many of the "family" pictures on Saturday afternoon, has a two-volume CD of all the photographs she took on Friday and Saturday. There is a shot of each entry in the Parade, from #1-200, plus many candid shots she took during the two days. Send her a check (payable to Jeannine Weddell)

for \$15 with your name and address, and she will send the duo CD's to you: J. Weddell, 800 Fairground Street, Newton, IL 62448.



On Friday evening, (l-r) **Norb Ochs** and **Bob Helregel** removed the copper-box time capsule from its vault where it was buried 25 years ago. **Mike Hartrich** (r) led the ceremony that included remarks and prayer from **Father Al Kemme**, St. Mary's pastor, and a letter from France read by chairman of the event, **Julie Thompson Warfel**. A large crowd attended this event on Dedication Hill. The box will be re-buried on Oct. 28th.

175th Commemorative Book

The book, *Sainte Marie, Illinois: Stories and Reminiscences* is still available – and widely praised. Here are some of the many comments we received:

...I cannot put the book down. I have read every word and advertisement. I will always treasure it. **Margo Regas**, Indianapolis, IN (daughter of **Jean Barthelme Regas**)

...It brought back so many memories of growing up in Sainte Marie. I haven't been back to SM since my dad passed away in 1986, but now it seems like I was just there. Well done. **Philip Cameron**, Rocklin, CA

.....Everyone who worked on the production deserves a thousand kudos!!!! The masterpiece is fantastic. Thank you. **Ann Huff LaMothe**, Lincoln, IL

You can still order the book by sending a \$27 check (plus \$6 if to be mailed) to **Carolyn Keller**, PO Box 6, Sainte Marie, IL 62459. It will also be sold at St. Mary's Pre-Labor Day Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 2 (with \$5.00 of the cost going to St. Mary's). Books are also available at the Sainte Marie State Bank and at The Gas Station. Buy for your children/grandchildren! They need to know just where you came from and how you became who you are!



At the parade on Saturday, June 30, the Larry and Mary Hartrich Family Float (sons Don and Joe Hartrich in the middle of the picture) featured giant fish and a row boat, a reminder of their many family fishing expeditions on the Embarras River.

day are owed a round of applause. They just look outstanding and show how very proud SM is of their village. Mom and I overheard two women talking in the diner the next morning in Olney. They just kept going on and on how nice the festival was, how nice the village is, how clean and how friendly. Made me proud to be a very small part of Ste. Marie. **Margo Regas**, Indianapolis, IN

....Because my small job at the 175th was directing people as they came into the church for the quilt show, I got to meet so many people I had not seen in years. The first response out of most people's mouths was "This is unbelievable!" (Editor's note: Ken Stone called putting the quilts over the pews "a stroke of genius.") *Eufala Bigard and her helpers did a wonderful job. The whole weekend was just a terrific event from beginning to end.* **Betty Keller Davison**, Rockton, IL

... the fireworks were spectacular. We went back home to Ames (IA) and watched the fireworks there on July 3 and they looked pathetic compared to Sainte Marie's. **Ken Stone**, Ames, IA

... The 175th celebration was wonderful, and we wish it was just starting over! I didn't get to attend everything, but I thoroughly enjoyed everything that I was able to be at. The parade was amazing! I was truly moved by a number of the entries, especially the WWII Veterans, fair queens and family floats! **Michelle Helregel Vogt**, Teutopolis, IL

...What a wonderful celebration!!!!!! Thank you all. **Angela Ritz Geltz**, Effingham, IL



Members of the **Ron/Carolyn Kirts** family honored their family's newspaper, *The Sainte Marie Tribune*, which was published from 1901 – 1918, when the two editors, **John and Gus Alblinger**, enlisted in World War I. Family members had built a mock-front of the *Tribune* office and grandchildren, dressed as newsboys, passed out a page of the *Tribune* to parade onlookers.

... The celebration was **WONDERFUL!!!** I enjoyed every minute of it. Thanks to all who made it such a wonderful weekend. **Becky Sheridan**, Champaign, IL

Thanks from Sainte Marie Community Club

From **Julie Warfel**, 175th Planning Committee Chairman:

Words cannot express the appreciation we have received about the celebration. Though it took over a year of planning, I feel the event turned out great, despite the heat! I would personally like to thank each and every one of you for your participation. Whether you volunteered to work a shift, showed up for set-up/clean-up, donated in any way, participated in the events, or just for your kind words of gratitude..... this small community really knows how to throw a party.....But we couldn't have done it without YOU! Thank you all who came out and celebrated with us. See you again in 25 years :)

From **Donna Keller** - 175th Planning Committee Parade Chairman:

Thank you to all who participated in the Sainte Marie Anniversary Celebration Parade and thanks for all the compliments...they were very much appreciated. The Family and Business floats were a huge success and there was a good variety of others things to make it interesting. Thanks to my great crew for organizing it on parade day...couldn't have done it without them!! Someone remember to tell me NOT to take the parade in 2037...but someone can ask me to be IN the parade if I'm still around! :-)

From the **175th Committee**: *Thank you to the Sainte Marie Foundation for their help in supporting the 175th Celebration...we really appreciate it!! And to all the individuals, families and businesses who donated...we are so very grateful.*

Comments from Visitors

...How lovely the town looked with all the magnificent hanging baskets. The folks watering them three times a



(l) **John Fox**, Waco, TX, presented a very old family tree document of Picquet/Hartrich family ancestors to **Mike Hartrich**, Sainte Marie Foundation VP and museum director. Estimated to be over 100 years old, the document will

be carefully preserved by the Foundation.



Illinois residents **Mary Jo and Chuck Martin**, Byron, **Adam and Allison (Martin) Wiley**, Morris, **Kyle Martin**, Troy, and his fiancée, **Allison Young**, Greenville, attended the Foundation's 2012 Book Reception that honored everyone who had helped to write and publish the 2012 Book. Mary Jo is the daughter of **Walt and Eloise Barthelme Spitzer**.



At the reception following the impressive Mass on Sunday, July 1, **Bishop Paprocki** of the Springfield Diocese was joined by Ochs brothers, (l-r) **Norbert, Louis, and Richard**, all 4th Degree Knights of Columbus members.

Helen Graham Art Exhibit Continues

The Helen Graham Art Exhibit at the Sainte Marie State Bank continues until Saturday, Sept. 1. The paintings will be changed for the last month, so even if you have seen the show, stop by to see it again. The exhibit is open during banking hours. Call 618-455-3355.

News Notes

-The popular Hideout restaurant closed as of July 1, 2012. Owner Lisa Mabrey says a new owner will soon be announced, but as of this newsletter going to press, the business has not sold. We all hope that another restaurant will soon open in SM.

-The drought in Southern Illinois continues. The corn crop is mostly a total loss. Soybeans might survive if a good, solid rain (not forecast) were to happen.

-Thanks to the **Heneberry** children - **Dave, Barb, Connie, Julie, and Maureen** – who helped clean and set up the Foundation House (their grandparents' home)

before the 175th weekend. Loved their stories of summer visits to Sainte Marie visiting their grandparents.

-St. Mary's is building a new storage facility just south of the Parish Center. The old white Parish Hall will be torn down soon (due to age and deterioration), so a new home was needed for all the chairs, tables, tents and picnic equipment stored there. We will all mourn the loss of that great upstairs room where we danced, put on plays, and had graduations/weddings/family events for many years. So many memories!

-**Don Alblinger** notes that one item that should have been included in the 2012 Book: there are three U. of I. Bronze Tablet (top 3% of the graduating class) recipients with SM roots – and that's an astonishing achievement for such a very small town. They are: **Terry Kirts** in



1992 (pictured on left with his mother, Carolyn, in front of an extensive *Sainte Marie Tribune* display they prepared along with father, Ron, for the 175th display at the Foundation House), **Susan G.**

Alblinger (Don's daughter) in 1995 and **Matthew J. Hartrich**, whose father was **Keith Hartrich**, (uncle is **Bill Hartrich**, SM mayor) in 1999. Matthew is a Robinson, IL attorney and Public Defender who is running for Crawford County States Attorney (Republican) in November.

Buy BIG TICKET Raffle Tickets

Many of you may choose not to come to the St. Mary's Pre-Labor Day Picnic on Sept. 2 since you attended the 175th. Let's not forget to support St. Mary's during their biggest fundraiser of the year! You can buy Raffle Tickets for \$1.00 each or SIX for \$5.00 by sending your name and address to St. Mary's, PO Box 68, Ste. Marie, IL 62459. Or send address labels for each purchased ticket and staff will affix them on the raffle tickets.



Eugene Hartrich: Meet **Eugene Hartrich**! Yes, our own "Hop" Hartrich, 89, met up with 3rd cousin Eugene Hartrich, 90, of Greenbrae, CA at the Sunday reception on July 1. The CA resident had not been in SM for 80 years, but he and Hop had connected during World War II when both were in Sardinia. At that point, the CA Eugene took Hop for an airplane ride in his military plane, more than 65 years ago.

The Sainte Marie Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Send comments to writer/editor Pat Reis, patreisprpr@yahoo.com. The Foundation is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, duly recognized as an Illinois charitable corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Do you have a Sainte Marie story you would like to share? Write your own and/or contact Pat Reis patreisprpr@yahoo.com. We reserve the right to edit.

A MESSAGE TO OUR E-MAIL READERS:

Have you made a donation to the Foundation this year? Our fiscal year ends on September 30th and only those who have made donations will be included in the 2012 Annual Report that comes out in November. Even though you may have bought an ad in the Commemorative Book or even purchased a book, you need to know that those are not considered donations in the eyes of the IRS because there was a service or item purchased. The Foundation relies on donations to do its work – maintaining and improving the Foundation House, preserving Sainte Marie’s history, and working to help the Village sustain itself in these changing times. We hope you appreciate what we are doing.

Please send donations to the Sainte Marie Foundation, PO Box 186, Sainte Marie, IL 62459

A Family Reconnects with Sainte Marie

In early June, I received a phone call from **John Fox**, who turns out to be a descendent of **James Picquet**, **Joseph Picquet**’s younger brother. John’s great-grandmother, **Marie Picquet**, married **Alphonse Hartrich**. So the family considers themselves Picquet/Hartrichs. A number of them came to SM for the 175th celebration including those pictured: (l – r) **James Withrow**, a senior at Gardner-Webb University in NC; his mother, **Genna Withrow** (Ellenboro, NC); **John and Naomi Fox** with son "Whit" (John Whitney) between them --all of Waco, Texas. John’s son **Jeremy Fox** and his wife **Serpil** also came from the Univ. of Michigan where he is a professor. And **Eugene Hartrich**, John and Genna’s uncle, came on Sunday for the mass and reception. (See picture on previous page.) All are very interested in re-connecting with SM and we hope to hear more from them in the future. They brought Picquet/Hartrich historical items, including a fascinating scrapbook, historical items and photos, which were on display at the Foundation House during the weekend.



175th Souvenirs

In case you were not able to make it to the Sainte Marie 175th Anniversary Celebration and weren't able to purchase souvenirs or you were there but it was just too hot to carry them around...the Sainte Marie Community Club has souvenirs to sell that would make great Christmas presents or just a keepsake of the historic event! These are all available at The Gas Station. If you want them mailed, call Julie Warfel for an estimate of mailing costs 618-455-3173. Send check payable to the SM Community Club, % Julie Warfel, PO Box 96, Ste. Marie, IL 62459

Red or Blue Christmas Balls	\$ 7.00
Wood Bookmarks	\$ 7.00
Round Tuits	\$ 1.00
Wine Glasses	\$ 5.00
I Love Ste. Marie Tattoo	\$.25
Proud to Be From Ste. Marie Tattoo	\$.25
Glass Beer Steins	\$10.00
1 Quart Ste. Marie Crock	\$35.00
2 Quart Ste. Marie Crock	\$45.00
5 Quart Ste. Marie Crock	\$55.00
Ste. Marie Huggies	\$ 2.00
Note Cards of Paintings of Ste. Marie (2 Sets of 10 Each – Price is <u>per set</u>)	\$ 8.00
T-Shirts (XX LG \$2.00 Extra)	\$12.00
Caps	\$10.00
Books from 1987 Centennial	\$ 5.00
Postcards from 1987 Centennial (For Ten)	\$ 1.00

And we wish Postmaster Kathy Burgund Yager the very best on her retirement July 25. Enjoy, Kathy!!

BONUS PAGES

Sainte Marie's Valued Culture

A letter from **John W. Fox**, Waco, TX

Editor's note: John W. Fox is a retired Baylor University (TX) anthropology professor. He sent this special letter after attending the 175th Celebration last month. The Foundation thanks him taking the time to write such a thoughtful letter about his impressions of the weekend and the village.

I am a Picquet-Hartrich descendant with my immediate family removed from Ste. Marie for about a century. However, when I returned to the village for the recent anniversary, Ste. Marie seemed almost mythic as the town so often in family stories. Yes, we were obviously French in appearance and still adhere to a few Alsatian customs. When eight members of our branch of the family congregated in Sainte Marie a few weeks ago, it was with great comfort and familiarity that we were included within the 175th anniversary celebration, almost as “old hands.” We were gratified to find a very intact community carrying out assignments for the commemoration like well-disciplined professionals. The sense of shared purpose and belongingness seemed so firmly entrenched that it would be wonderful for aspects of the culture to be identified and preserved where possible, so as to continue for future generations.

A few projects came to mind that might be discussed by the Foundation:

1) A series of **small family histories** could be published with the Foundation. Since sufficient material seems to already have been collected, judging from what appeared in the anniversary volume (2012 Book) and from conversations, I would guess that single volumes could be written on the Picquet, Hartrich, Reis, and Barthelme families. And those are merely the families I happened to hear about in my three days during the Ste. Marie festivities. To see the large extended families on the floats during the parade would suggest there are many possibilities of additional family histories. However, most genealogies require a take-charge senior author who is sufficiently motivated to work out the family trees and collect oral history and verify the actual historical events through written accounts (such as the newspaper articles, letters, court proceedings etc.). Yet, Ste. Marie stands apart by having a highly educated population with great pride in its history.

2) Many contributors could compile a volume (although it would require an editor-in-chief) on **the French culinary customs and preferred meals**, especially for the special times of the year like Christmas, Easter and birthdays, which may also be considered time-honored rituals for conserving tradition. Many dining and cooking customs have been passed down through the generations. Such food “folkways” would seem to speak to a deeply entrenched culture that has remained as intact as one could expect. My guess is that many of the families in Ste. Marie have recipes and holiday-practices from the old days. Our branch of the Picquet-Hartrichs certainly has its family favorites of meringues, crepes (called “French pancakes”) and many other delicacies that have been passed on from grandmother and mother to daughter. I wonder how many people from Sainte Marie still have French linguistic expressions that relate to eating and the table.

3) As French matrons, my mother (Marie Jeanette Hartrich) and her twin sister (Elizabeth Annette Hartrich), raised a brood of six children in a single household. Their aunt (Bertha Picquet Hartrich) and strong-willed grandmother (Marie Louise Picquet, daughter of Dr. James Picquet) instructed them so well in the **French family customs** that our extended family remained a tiny capsule of Alsace and Ste. Marie in household practices. Extrapolating these experiences more widely, to what extent do (and did) family customs, kinship practices, marriage

customs and selecting the “right” partners, reflect (even partially) the traditional patterns established by the colonists 175 years ago? In linguistics, how long ago was French spoken within the family and how long ago were French terms used separately for male (e.g. tools, work) activities and those for female activities?

4) The material culture (household belongings, silverware, china, Bibles, furniture, tools, portraits, memorabilia from church or school, etc.), originating with the *Colonie de Freres*, could be inventoried and recorded. These artifacts from bygone days relate to the material residue of a distinctive cultural pattern transplanted in Ste. Marie, that set this **highly distinctive community** apart from nearly all settlements within a substantial distance and gave it its distinguishing identity to this day. Since the artifacts of the first generation or two in many cases originated in France, they testify to the rich heritage and social standing that the émigrés brought. Accordingly, it might be wise for the Foundation to begin to inventory the individual pieces still held by families in Ste. Marie and elsewhere (ideally photographed) so when these items become available they might be acquired by the Foundation for a permanent museum collection. The artifacts could also be used to illustrate some of the family histories or volumes of historical interest.

Antiques would give credence to future generations of the very special nature of the settlers who sought an open frontier to practice what they perceived as threatened lifeways. Many of these heirlooms and cultural practices have been nurtured and painstakingly passed down to the present as the unique and rich culture ways of the village, and it will be a service to future generations to preserve them.

Some of the Foundation House Displays from the 175th Celebration



The World War II exhibit featured **Maxine Cunningham Hartrich's** nurse's uniform and cape (on left) and **Lucie Hunzinger Hartrich's** wedding dress (hanging on right) made from parachute material brought home from Europe by Paratrooper **Harold Hartrich** (his uniforms above table) after the war ended. Maxine has donated the uniform and cape to the Foundation for future museum exhibits.



The baseball/softball exhibit was popular, with many pictures of both girls/boys teams as well as men's baseball and women's softball teams. Sainte Marie was well known for its winning teams.



This Singer sewing machine was given to **Jim and Minta Spitzer** on their wedding day over 100 years ago. Their grandchildren donated it (on loan) to the Foundation House. The machine still works, according to **Madonna Hahn Schackmann**, who sat down and showed us its capabilities when she brought it to the Foundation House last year!