



# Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's winter season 2015

Volume 8, Issue 1

## Mark your calendars

**Sunday, Feb. 1** – Museum open 1-3 p.m. and every *first Sunday* until the end of May

**Sunday, Feb. 8** – Book discussion, *Across Five Aprils*, at the Foundation House with **Mike Hartrich**. 1 p.m. Free. *See details below.*

**Sunday, May 31** – Closing reception for Military Exhibit. Museum open 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. with **Ken Stone** talk (2 p.m.) at American Legion followed by a wine and cheese reception. *See details below.*

**Saturday, July 25** – **Cork and Pork Festival** at Picquet Park from 11 a.m. – 11 p.m. Co-sponsored by the Foundation with Ste. Marie Community Club, Ste. Marie American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion,



Jasper County Pork Producers, *et.al.* Wine, beer, pork, and music! *More information to come, but save the date!*

## Civil War Book Discussion

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



*Across Five Aprils*, by Jasper County author Irene Hunt, covers a local family's involvement in the Civil War. We will also discuss how residents of Sainte Marie served in the war.

Presenter **Mike Hartrich**, (at left) Foundation vice president and co-curator of the military exhibit, is a retired history and English teacher and former athletic director at Newton

Community High School. (The book is widely available on Amazon or at your local library.) *Come, even if you have not read the book, as it will be an informative afternoon, with a chance to see the military exhibit.*

## Vietnam: An Army Aviator's Perspective

**Sunday, May 31, 2015 - 2 p.m.** (Last day for Military Exhibit at the Museum, open from 11:30 – 1:30 p.m.)

Former resident **Ken Stone** will talk about his experiences in the Vietnam War, including some of

the significant actions in which he was involved during his tours of duty in 1962-63 and 1966-67, when he was a command pilot for the commander of the 1st Infantry Division. Ken's service in the Army included nine years of active duty, mainly flying army reconnaissance planes. He retired as a "bird colonel" after 20 years of service and went on to become a professor of economics at Iowa State University.

This is a joint program with the Ste. Marie American Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion. **Ken Stone's 2 p.m. talk will be at the American Legion Hall, Ste. Marie, (with wine/cheese reception following talk.)** Donations accepted.

## Flower Baskets

See the enclosed form regarding the 2015 Flower Baskets. The price for sponsoring the baskets has increased this year because of new equipment and chemicals that must be purchased to spray the baskets to control aphids, which have plagued us for the past two years. As always, sponsors will be listed on huge signs mounted in the old bank windows. We thank you for your assistance with this much-beloved project.

## Next Museum Exhibit

The Sainte Marie community and the Catholic Church in Sainte Marie were integrally linked, and that is the topic of our 2015-16 exhibit. We will be looking for pictures of baptisms, first communions or confirmations, prayer cards, statues, Church picnic pictures/posters, any church-related items, **from St. Mary's or from St. Valentine in the Bend.** If they are larger items...let us know what you have and we can tell you if we can utilize it in the space we have. Contact **Donna M. Keller** at 618-455-3452 or **Mike Hartrich** at 618-783-8678. You may drop off pictures at the Sainte Marie State Bank, or bigger items at Simple Rewards Day Spa at 606 W. Jourdan St. in Newton. Please include information about the pictures. They will be returned to the bank once they are scanned.

## Booking the Foundation House

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

### New Foundation Board Member

The Foundation Board recently elected **Bonnie Beucherie Jackson**, Noble, to the Board. Bonnie, who grew up in the Sainte Marie area, has her own interior decorating business and many of her clients are in Jasper County. She is very active in the Ste. Marie American Legion Auxiliary and also provided welcome advice and volunteer help when we redecorated our downstairs bathrooms at the House. We welcome Bonnie to the Board.



### Ste. Marie in Enterprise Zone

Mayor Jack Thompson recently announced that the village is now part of the Jasper County Enterprise Zone, a joint venture with the city of Newton and Jasper County. The six-square-mile zone will welcome new businesses by abating their taxes for five years. For example, in the first year a business would pay no village or county taxes. The second year, only 20% of the taxes would have to be paid and so on until in the fifth year, full taxes would be paid.

“We want to encourage new businesses to locate here,” says Thompson, “and this is one way to do so.”

For further information, call Mayor Thompson at 618-455-3579.

### Nick Reis Receives Honors

Newton Community High School senior, **Nicholas Reis**, son of State Representative **David and Maria Reis**, Ste. Marie, was recently named to the *Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Class 3-A Academic All-State Team*.



To be named to the IHSFCA academic squad, a player had to be selected as an *All-Conference player* and had to have a current cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale, or 4.5 or better on a 5.0 scale.

On the field, Nicholas was a three year Letterman on the offensive line at Newton and was named **First Team All-Conference and Decatur Herald First Team All-Area** for the 2014 season. Defensively, the 6'0" 280-pounder also played on the line for the Eagles who qualified for the Class 3-A playoffs for the first time in seven years. Nick was also selected to play in the *Shriners All-Star Game* to be held June 20, 2015, in Bloomington, IL. Congratulations, Nick, and good luck in your university football career!

### Transitions

**Hilda M. Dallmier**, 82, of Newton. Survived by husband, George, 5 children, 18 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren.

**Francis Aloysius “Frank” Geltz**, age 90. Longtime, member of the Ste. Marie American Legion Post 932. Four children, 7 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren.

**John Charles Michl**, 65. Charter member of the Ste. Marie Sons of the American Legion Post 932; 2013 Beekeeper of the Year; active volunteer of the Sainte Marie Foundation. Survived by wife Rose, 6 children, 12 grandchildren. John mowed our lawn and helped with many carpentry projects when we first took over the Foundation House in 2007. He will be missed.



**Shirley Gail Yager**, 57, Oblong, formerly of Sainte Marie. Survived by her dad, (Sonny), 5 daughters and 11 grandchildren. **Gloria Yager Litzelman**, Sainte Marie, is her sister.

### News Notes

- Special thanks to the entire **extended family of Emil A. and Mathilda Spitzer** who made a \$2000 donation to the Foundation in November, 2014. This was a family that spent many happy summers in SM with grandparents, and we are delighted that their happy memories have led them to support the Foundation, not only with funds but also with much memorabilia for the current military exhibit and with support from their members, especially **Dave Wiltshire**, IN, who has attended workdays and done volunteer carpentry work at the Foundation House. Thanks to all.

-Thanks to the **Mary Heath Foundation**, Robinson, for a recent grant of over \$3600 to the Foundation for items we are requesting for the Museum. The Heath Foundation has been an active supporter of the educational efforts of our little museum, and we are very appreciative of their support.

-We belatedly recognize a very welcome \$300 donation from **Gordon, Rick and Tim Bower** in memory of their mother, **Mary Jo Hartrich Bower**, 88, the last survivor of Jerry Hartrich's seven children.

-Special thanks to **Glenn Picquet** who sent \$1,000 for tree and landscaping improvements at the Foundation House. The landscaping committee chose a very large *Autumn Blaze* maple for the front yard, to replace the tree that had fallen during the summer.

-Foundation vice-president **Mike Hartrich** recently retired from his NCHS Cross Country Coach position after 32 years. Mike has been retired from teaching for a number of years, but his coaching was something that he continued. Now, he says, it is time to sit back and watch his grandchildren compete. Enjoy, Mike!

### At the Foundation House

-We are blessed to have people like **Kelly Borgic** use their creativity to support our efforts. Kelly made this unique end table (**Pix at right**) last summer for the *Calvert Sun Porch* at the Foundation House. Pictures are displayed under the glass of an old window. When we want to change the display, we merely open the window, which is hinged on the right side. The pictures displayed above honor **Maurice and Maxine Calvert**, for whom the sun porch was dedicated at the Grand Opening in late August. Thanks, Kelly, for your table donation!



### Katie Wait Returns "Home"

It was a major effort, but 93 year-old **Mary K. (Katie) Keller Wait** was determined. She wanted to see that Foundation House that she had heard so much about (and avidly supported) even though she lived far away in southern California. And she wanted to visit her only



surviving sibling, her brother **Art Keller**, and her many nieces and nephews who still lived in the area.

In early November, Katie's determination paid off. Accompanied by her daughter and son-in-law, **Don and Pam Miles** of Seattle, WA, Katie returned to the place where she grew up – spending a joyous visit seeing the Foundation House, her brother Art and many of her Keller family, including her sister-in-law **Celeste Keller** of Decatur who is 102 years old. They all gathered for a gala reunion at Art's home north of SM and also took a tour of the Foundation House and Museum, led by Katie's

niece-in-law, **Donna Keller**, Foundation Board member and co-curator of the Military Exhibit. We were all happy to hear that Katie got her wish for a visit back to her home town of Sainte Marie.

### We Get Mail (More in Bonus Pages)

From **Elaine Gill**: My ancestors lived in Ste. Marie and I'm currently trying to put together a memory book for my parents. My father attended the Pond Grove school from around 1930-1938. I've looked online to see if perhaps I could find a picture from that time era but did not have any luck. I thought I'd ask if you have any you might share. My paternal grandfather was **James Yost** and my father is **Arthur Yost**. My maternal grandfather was **Albert Geltz** and my mother is **Mary Kathryn Berry**. Any help you can provide will be appreciated. *(Editor's note: We told Elaine we would print her note in case any of you have pix to share.)*

### Sainte Marie Moves: Farewell and Welcome

**Don and Nikki Hartrich** have moved to central Montana where both have new jobs. They sold their home/shop to **Josh Tarr**, who has moved his plumbing business and himself into this very useful space in the northwest corner of SM. Other moves: **Mildred Schmidt** has moved into a smaller home next to her son, **Don**, and **Sarah Boehl** bought Mildred's home. Sarah teaches choral music at Oblong High School. Welcome, Sarah. And we wish Mildred well in her new and smaller home.

### Annual Report Mailing

In mid-November we send out our one extensive mailing of the year – our Annual Report with a letter requesting year-end donations to support the Foundation. It is a back-breaking job, with much paper-shuffling and stamps and envelopes galore. We thank the following volunteers who came to help: **Bob Helregel, Bonnie Beucherie Jackson, Ron/Carolyn Kirts, Don Perille, Ed Reis, Pat Reis, Glenda Reis Schwartz, Anita Reis Steber, David Wiltshire**. Thanks to **Hartrich Meats** who provided a wonderful lunch.

### Catering at the Foundation House

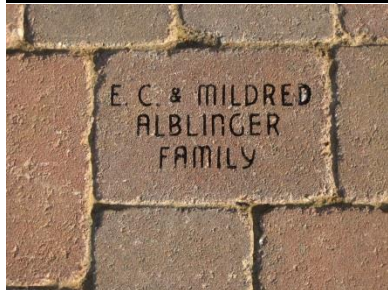
Remember, **Hartrich Meats Catering** will provide meals for parties of six or more who meet or stay at the Foundation House. Call Janet at 618-455-3172 to order your meals.

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

**D**on't Forget: Feb. 8  
Book Discussion with  
Mike Hartrich, 1 p.m.

The Sainte Marie Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Send comments to writer/editor Pat Reis, [patreisprpr@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:patreisprpr@yahoo.com). We reserve the right to edit.

### Mother's and Father's Day Gifts



Stumped about what to get your parents (or other family members) when they have everything already?? **Consider buying a brick on our Ken and Marge Hartrich Memorial patio** so that your loved ones will always have a “place” in our historical records at the Foundation House. Bricks may be purchased with two-line (\$200) or four-line (\$400) engraving of **12 characters** per line. And you would be helping fund the Foundation with your donation. Send your request and check with printed copy to SMF, PO Box 186, Sainte Marie, IL 62459.

(At left) A sample engraved-stone

### Music of War Program

Over 50 people braved a snowy Sunday afternoon on Nov. 16 to attend **The Music of War** program co-hosted by the **Ste. Marie American Legion Post #932** in their lovely upstairs hall. The stars of the program were **Terri Zuber**, piano accompanist and singer, and **Norma Ochs**, singer, who brought along her sister **Jamie Ginder**, IN, to sing along on several numbers (we loved their version of *Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B!*). The program ranged from songs of the Civil War to the many popular songs of World War II. Also, **Annette Reis Lynch** showed her award-winning video “Military Stars” which opens with familiar military songs (Marine’s hymn, Army, Navy, etc.) and continues with pictures of Sainte Marie-area residents (and family members) who served the armed forces in the last 150 years. We thank **John Geltz** for setting up an excellent sound system for the event. And special accolades to the **American Legion Auxiliary** who provided wonderful refreshments. Post Commander **Gene Ochs** and other Legion members were excellent hosts. We look forward to working with them again when we offer the May 31 **Ken Stone** program – and celebrate the closing of the Foundation’s Military Exhibit at the Foundation House.

### A Welcome Donation

The Foundation recently received some wonderful pictures and artifacts from **Marilynn Weber**, Newton. The box, acquired many years ago at an estate sale, contained about 50 pictures, circa 1890-1910, of the **Xavier Picquet** home and farm and also many of the family members. Also included are a painting on ivory of **Theodore Shifferstein**, and a document written in French that appears to be a history of the Shifferstein family (original SM settlers). Digital copies are being made so the Foundation can use the artifacts for future displays in the museum and in the rest of the house. The Foundation Board thanks Mrs. Weber for her generous donation.

### New Ochs Family Booklet

**All of you Ochs Family** members (and who doesn’t have an Ochs in their family tree?): There is a new booklet at the Sainte Marie State Bank entitled *Two Centuries of the Ochs Family*, written and edited by **John and Susan Ochs**, Ann Arbor, MI with photos from the collection of **Norma Kocher**, Newton. Although John Ochs is from the Stringtown Ochs’ families, the major part of the book is a reprint of the original *Ochs Book*, first published in 1938 and revised in 1952. The book costs \$15, a real bargain for an invaluable piece of history. (*Full disclosure: my picture is on p. 26, top center, although my name is wrong -Pat*)

# Bonus Pages for E-mail Subscribers

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

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



Dear Friends,

The **Sainte Marie Foundation's Flower Basket** Project has been very popular since it first started in 2010. People living in and traveling through Sainte Marie enjoy the beautiful baskets during the spring, summer and early-fall months.

Many of you have graciously helped with this project in the past, and we were wondering if you would like to help once again to sponsor the 2015 Flower Basket Project. Plans need to be made early. The plants for the baskets are started in a greenhouse after the first of the year and are planted in the baskets in March. They grow in an Amish greenhouse north of Oblong until the baskets are hung sometime in May. In the early years of this project, we charged only one hundred dollars to sponsor one of the 14 flower baskets. Our actual costs turned out to be much more, but rather than charging more per basket, we have allowed more people to sign up as sponsors in order to help with the overall costs of the baskets. Each donor (individual or business) is listed on professionally made signs (also an expense) displayed on the old bank's windows. We also list "*In memory of*" or "*In honor of*" your loved one, if you prefer that kind of donation.

Please consider helping us with this worthwhile project. The baskets not only beautify the quaint little village of Sainte Marie, but they show what incredible pride we all (near and far) have in this great little community, as did our ancestors before us.

Should you decide to help sponsor this project, you can send your check made out to the Sainte Marie Foundation for \$115.00 along with the completed enclosed form. My address is on the form as well as other contact information should you have any questions. **The form should be returned to Donna M. Keller @ 2591 N 1800<sup>th</sup> St, West Liberty, IL 62475.**

Thank you in advance for your continued support of Sainte Marie and the Sainte Marie Foundation.

Sincerely,  
Donna M. Keller  
Sainte Marie Foundation Board

## The Sainte Marie Flower Basket Project

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I would like to help sponsor the 2015 Flower Basket Project. I have enclosed my check for \$115.00, made payable to the Sainte Marie Foundation.

*Sponsor names will again be posted on the windows of the old bank building. Please indicate below just how you would like your sponsorship to be listed:*

\_\_\_\_ Just list me as a sponsor.

(Print how you want it listed) \_\_\_\_\_

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OR

\_\_\_\_ I would like my sponsorship to be made (*please print*):

-In memory of \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_

OR

-In honor of \_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

***Please make your \$115.00 check payable to the Sainte Marie Foundation. Thanks for your continued support in making our village so beautiful.***

Please return to:  
Donna M. Keller  
2591 N. 1800<sup>th</sup> St.  
West Liberty, IL 62475



### **Jim and Dorothy Hahn Garden**

This small bench marks the donation from the Hahn family that provided funds for the garden surrounding the **Ken and Marge Hartrich Memorial Patio**, with its many engraved stones. The garden was planted with shrubs and perennials in late fall 2014. Small coral-colored pebbles complement the stones in the patio. The patio will be **dedicated to Jim and Dorothy Hahn** in 2015, at the opening of the next Museum Exhibit.

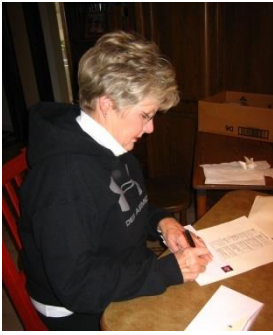
### **We Get Mail**

From **Joyce Keller Decker**: We always enjoy reading the news and newsletters. We love our book of Sainte Marie and have shown it to many people. I bought five of the books and probably should have bought more. I love our 175th Christmas ornament from the 2012 celebration. Thank you so much for keeping us up-to-date. My mom, **Louise Keller**, thanks you, too. (*Editor's note: We still have books for sale, Joyce. They're now only \$20, a real bargain for a hard-cover book with so many pictures.*)

From **Amanda Zuber Huber** (*after receiving the Fall Newsletter*). Well, you have done it again, Pat...made me cry and miss home like a little kid. And just when I was finally starting to feel at home here in Hawaii. We finally got a house about a month ago on AMR (Aliamanu Military Reservation) just down the road from Ft. Shafter where Steve is stationed. We feel very blessed. On a tiny island only 30 miles across at its longest span, traffic here gets ridiculously crazy and congested, and we feared we might have to live a whole 14 miles away! In reality though, that seriously would have been an hour-long commute one-way for Steve. So we feel incredibly blessed to have this house! Perhaps the best part of it is that we have an incredible view of Pearl Harbor including the Arizona Memorial and the USS Missouri from our living room, bedroom and backyard. As history buffs, it sends wondrous chills down our spines every time we gaze out at it. With all that being said though, Oahu may be paradise, but Ste. Marie is home--always and forever.

Do you happen to know--after your incredible military museum weekend--if any Ste. Marie folks were stationed here on Oahu when Pearl Harbor was attacked? I'd love to walk where they walked. And if you hear of anyone from or with connections to Ste. Marie making a trip out here, please feel free to pass along my info. (*Editor's note: We always enjoy hearing from Amanda who is a "worldwide resident" because of her husband Steve's army career. She and Steve have four children so each move is significant – and stressful!*)

From **Dorothy Hitt**, MO. What a wonderful (Fall) newsletter filled with happy events. Ste. Marie is an outstanding and lovely village. Compliments to all.



(At left:) Anita Reis Steber addresses envelopes that were sent Foundation supporters in mid-November with our Annual Appeal for donations. We hope all of you enjoyed reading our Annual Report and have responded to our request.



L – R: Donna Keller and new Foundation Board member, Bonnie Jackson, decorate the Christmas tree at the Foundation House in late November, 2014.



**Katie Keller Wait** (lower left in pix), CA, visited the Foundation House in early November. Joining her on the Keller Bench near the Memorial Patio are her niece, **Jean Keller Smith**, of Decatur, IL, daughter of **Frank and Celeste Keller**, (bottom right); and (top row, l – r) **Sharon Keller Steirwalt**, Murphysboro, IL, daughter of **Marion and Viola Keller**, and **Pam Wait Miles**, Katie’s daughter from Seattle, WA.

Katie, at 93, was happy to come from her southern California home to visit her hometown and her brother, **Art Keller** and the extended Keller family. She and Art donated the bench last summer in memory of their parents and their eight siblings

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**Number of disks requested:** \_\_\_\_\_. **Please enclose checks to: *Sainte Marie Foundation, Box 186, Sainte Marie, IL 62459.***