



Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's summer season 2014

Volume 7, Issue 3

Grand Opening Aug. 30th

You are invited to the Grand Opening of the Foundation House and Museum on Saturday, Aug. 30, at 1 p.m.

The schedule of events will include:

-Music from 12:30 – 1 p.m. Folk Music (acoustic strings) by **Judy Helregel Millsap**; her daughter, **Krista Millsap Barber**, and son, **Ryan**. Joining them will be **Nash and Adrian Swisher** and **Broc Hemrich**.

-Honor Guard from **American Legion Post 932**

-Ribbon Cutting for the Foundation House, as we officially claim the House as our own.

-Patio Dedication to **Ken and Marge Hartrich**

-Honor extraordinary volunteers and donors

-Reception and 1st viewing of War Exhibit

There will be an **Open House** from 1 – 5 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 31 during the St. Mary's Picnic.

War Exhibit Progress

Both **Mike Hartrich** and **Donna Keller** will tell you that setting up the exhibit, *Sainte Marie: Touched by War*, has been a challenge. The two have spent hours cataloging items that have been stored away for several years as we awaited the end of our agreement with the construction company so we had full access to the Foundation House.

“People have been so generous in loaning us items for this exhibit,” says Mike. “And the DVD **Annette Lynch** is preparing will be a wonderful history of all SM-area residents who have served in the military over the years.”

Donna added, “We really want to thank everyone who sent and dropped off pictures and other war items. We hope many people will join us for the Grand Opening and for the events throughout the year.” The first event

will be *Wartime Music*, featuring songs that were popular during various wars, to be held on Sunday, Oct. 12 at 1 p.m. with **Nikki Hartrich**. Watch for more details about future programs in future newsletters.



(l – r) Curators **Donna Keller** and **Mike Hartrich** examine a WW II artifact as they work at setting up the Foundation Museum exhibit, *Sainte Marie: Touched by War*. The Museum will be open the first Sunday of each month from 1 - 4 p.m. or by special arrangement (call 618-455-3153).

Foundation Receives Heath Grant

Great news!! The **Mary Heath Foundation**, Robinson, has awarded a \$4,145 grant to the Foundation. The funds will be used to purchase a variety of electronic equipment, including a computer and heavy-duty printer, a portable sound system, a large screen TV, as well as display materials for hanging pictures on the walls without making holes in the old plaster – very important in an old house! We thank the Heath Foundation Board for their continuing support of our work.

Flower Baskets Sponsors

Corrections: We apologize for somehow omitting these three sponsors in our last newsletter:

-In memory of George & Viola Litzelman from their children

-The Gas Station

-Margo Regas

The baskets are up and look glorious! Thanks to **Bob and Tammy Frye** for spearheading the project, including planting the baskets, putting up the signs on the old bank windows, supervising the daily watering and the other myriad duties involved with keeping those baskets so beautiful! Thanks also to “waterers” **Ron Kirts** and **Marie Wagner**. Tell them all thanks when you see them around Sainte Marie.

**WELCOME BACK, BARTHELME AND HARTRICH/
PICQUET FAMILY REUNIONS!**

Catering at the Foundation House

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

Transitions



Dorothy Keller Hahn, 94. Survived by 7 children (**Larry** has been our major contractor in renovating the House; **Annette** served on the Foundation Board), 17 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

Ted Kocher, 95. Survived by two children, 6 grandchildren, and 5 great-grandchildren. Wife Martha and daughter Sheryl preceded him in death.

Special Thanks for Memorial Donations

The Foundation has been blessed with some significant donations from people who honored two long time Sainte Marie residents:

Thanks to family and friends of **Marge Hartrich** who gave over \$800 to the Foundation in Marge's memory. The family has asked that Marge's name be added to the **Kenny Hartrich** patio. So that is where those funds will be allocated.

Also, the **Dorothy Hahn family** designated the Foundation as one of the recipients of donations made to honor her memory. We thank them for the gift of over \$1300. More about her memorial in the next newsletter.

We Get Mail

We were pleased to get a newsy letter from **Francis "Bub" Michl** (Geneva, IL) who says he liked the 175th anniversary book so much that he read it "four or five times." Francis wrote about growing up in Ste. Marie where his dad owned Michl's Garage. We were so pleased to hear from "Bub" --here's



some of what he said:

*My wife Linda and I were married fifty years ago, in SM, in the priest's house because Linda was not Catholic. We had a reception in the old church hall where the ladies of the church had prepared a feast of great food. I thank them again – **Evelyn Kocher, Millie Schmidt** and many others.*

Growing up in the early 50's, I delivered the Decatur Herald to the south and east side of town. E. A. Spitzer used to flag me down regularly and offer me a nickel if I would come into his house and thread his sewing needle.

Thanks for the memories, Bub. We hope to see you in SM very soon!

Goodbye and an Invitation To Move Back

Anna Lou Stone has moved to Oblong to be near two of her daughters, **Diane** and **Susan**. We will miss her at the Foundation House, because she was one of our most loyal volunteers. Whatever needed to be done, Anna Lou was there to help – painting, scrubbing, washing windows, etc. We probably wore her out!! Anna Lou was also very involved at St. Mary's and helped coordinate the popular Monday night Country Dance held at the Parish Hall. She is the last of the Stone family to reside in SM.

And her departure brings up another topic: we would LOVE it if some of you retirees moved back to Sainte Marie. There are a number of very nice houses for sale in town. **Mayor Jack Thompson** (618-455-3579) will be happy to talk to you about these residences and give you the particulars about why we would like to have you come back. Give him a call today.

Work at the Foundation House

We have been so busy this summer with making the Foundation House into a welcoming and comfortable place, as well as a historical museum. Here are some of our projects:

1. The Sun Porch

(l-r) **John Lybarger** and **Bonnie Jackson** install solar shades on the sun porch, as we prepare this beautiful room for use by our visitors. Thanks to **Maurice and Maxine Calvert** for the donation that allowed us to buy these classy shades.



2. Bricks for the Patio



Pictured are some of the engraved bricks that will be installed in our new patio. We will still accept a few more, if we somehow

missed you, but time is short now for ordering a brick (618-783-3874), as the patio will be installed in mid-July. Thanks to **Gene and Madonna Hahn Schackmann**, Newton, for their donation of the engraving on this project.

3. Thanks to **Tom Wright** at **Wright Furniture, Dieterich**, from whom we received a significant discount on two new sets of mattress and box springs and on carpeting for the stairway (much needed).

4. **Eugene “Hop” and Maxine Hartrich** donated a very old (and beautiful) bedframe and dresser for what we are calling our “Wedding Bedroom”. Visit us and you will see why. The bedframe belonged to Hop’s mother **Mayme Huber Hartrich**, and the dresser came from the **Zuber** side of Maxine’s family. Both pieces are truly classic. Thank you for this generous gift!

5.. Sometimes people just show up at the right time! And that is the story of **David Wiltshire**, Spencer, IN, who thought he might help with the museum set-up and instead found himself making “rolling shelves” for the odd, very long closets in our upstairs bedrooms. David is a grandson of **E.A. “Mon” and Mathilda Spitzer**, and he spent many a childhood summer in Ste. Marie with his extended Spitzer family. “This is my way of ‘giving back for all the good times I had in SM’” says Dave. Thank you, David, for making the long trip from IN to help us. We do need that storage space!

6. The multi-talented **Annette Lynch** (*full disclosure: she’s my sister*) embroidered guest towels (see picture) for the upstairs bathroom and also continues to apply her considerable gardening skills to the House’s landscaping. I think we could win awards for her work (see lower pix at right). Her DVD’s **DO** win awards. Wait until you see her latest on the military involvement of SM residents over the years.



7. And last but not least, a hearty thank you to Board member **Donna Keller** who has scoured resale shops for some much needed furniture at the House. Donna’s decorating skills are monumental. Oh what she can do with a few items most of us would simply discard! Thanks, Donna, for making the House so comfy and yet historically interesting.

Pool To Be Demolished

Yes, sad news. Our favorite swimming pool will be demolished this summer, a victim of age and crumbling concrete. “We just could no longer pass the annual state inspection,” said **Mayor Jack Thompson**. “And repairs to upgrade it were just too costly.”

The pool was built by the Sacred Heart Novitiate sometime before the Novitiate closed in 1972. By the late 70’s, it was being used by the community, (thanks to

the Unit One school district owners), with supervision from the Community Club. In 2009, the South Eastern Special Education Cooperative, current owner of the property, donated it to the Village. Thanks to **Ron Kirts**, who kept the old pool going for over 30 years – for the enjoyment of many, many children (and some adults).

Needed at the House

-People who would like to be a docent (*a voluntary worker who acts as a guide in a museum*) during the next nine months. We will train you.

-A large truck to transport a load of mulch from Charleston, IL, on a Sat. morning

-Gardeners/handyman (or women)/office workers

Look How Far We Have Come

The House in 2007 before we acquired it....



Today.....



Thanks to all who have helped with this transformation, whether you sent donations or provided volunteer work. The Foundation House is a gift to the community, and we thank **Don Albers** of DCA who gave us this gem in 2008.

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

Honor Bench for Ron Kirts Family

The **Ste. Marie Community Club** asked the Foundation to secure a special bench to honor **Ron Kirts** and his family, for their many years of service to Sainte Marie. Ron has truly been one of the best friends the SM-area ever had. His work for the church and community is legendary.

Thanks to **Gene and Madonna Schackmann** who acquired two special stone benches, which they then engraved. The other bench is a memorial to Madonna’s parents, **Ed and Angela Hahn**, longtime residents of the village. Both are placed in a lovely garden on the south lawn. Stop by to see them soon.

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



Teresa Hartrich sorts military pictures submitted for the museum display.

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.

Put on your 2014 calendar:

Saturday, August 30 – Grand Opening at Foundation House (see article on p. 1)

Sunday, August 31 – St. Mary’s Picnic

This is an event we all look forward to each year, as it’s really a “homecoming” for many of us. You can still make a donation to the BIG TICKET or at least buy some quilt or Big Ticket chances, as this is St. Mary’s major fundraiser for the year. Contact: **Judy Wagner** at stmaryschurch@psbnewton.com or 618-455-3155.

Sunday, October 12, 1 p.m. *Wartime Music* with **Nikki Hartrich**

Military DVD – Pictures Still Accepted

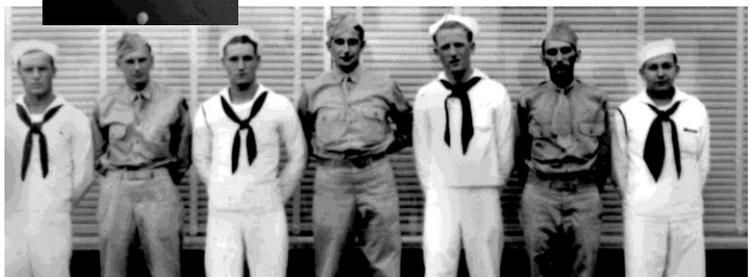
Here are some of the pictures submitted to **Annette Lynch** for the DVD she is making for the war exhibit at the House. The DVD will feature present and former Sainte Marie residents (and sometimes their descendants) who served in the military in the last 177 years. It’s not too late to submit your picture (or your dad’s, brother’s, sister’s, etc.). **Drop off pictures at the Bank or send to the Foundation at PO Box 186, Ste. Marie, IL 62459.**



(left) **MAURICE J. CALVERT**
United States Navy 1951 – 1955



(right) **MAXINE CUNNINGHAM HARTRICH,** WW II Nurse



**Do you know these men who served in WW
Visit the Foundation’s Museum exhibit and
find out who they are..**

II?

Bonus Pages for E-mail Subscribers

Sainte Marie Foundation Newsletter *continued*

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.

News Notes

Congratulations to three young SM entrepreneurs **Brooklyn Herman, Layla Kuhl** and **Arianna Goss** who created a lemonade stand (with cookie and brownies – yum!) to raise funds for the medical expenses of **Emma Kocher**, 6, daughter of **Brent and Amy Kocher**, who is fighting a life-threatening illness. The enterprising three-some set up their stand at the four-way stop and raised over \$450 in one day!! That's the Sainte Marie spirit, all the way!

-Mother's Day weekend is always a big weekend in Sainte Marie. **St. Mary's Church** had a Mother/Daughter Supper event sponsored by the Family Life Committee, that was well-attended and a lot of fun.



(At left: Teresa Tracy, Newton, with her mother Evelyn Geltz Kocher)

Your editor attended as a guest of **Carolyn Litzelman Kirts**.

*Editor's note: I tried to pass myself off as her daughter, but that really did not work☹. And the **American Legion Post 932** had their annual Mother's Day Breakfast, an event that draws people from all over the area. Wonderful food and so nice to see so many friends.*

-**Teresa Ochs Ikemire** recently rescued something we wanted to save at the House. The very back room of the



House, one we use for storage, was once **Joan Kirts Heneberry's** playroom as a child. Her mother, **Lena**, and aunt **Christine Ablinger** had put Mother Goose black paper cutouts around the top of the walls (see picture above). Well over 70 years old, they were crumbling and definitely would not stand up to the pounding of a ceiling being replaced. So Teresa and two friends copied them and will present us with stencils so we can replace them once the room is renovated (our last renovation at the House!). Former SM resident Teresa is an Oblong-based, self-taught artist who has done many

community murals and other creative projects. **Thank you, Teresa!**

Museum in Progress

The two pictures below show what the Foundation House Museum room looked like in mid-June -- lots of items stacked here and there, empty display cases and numerous possibilities.

Board members **Mike Hartrich** and **Donna Keller**, along with **Teresa Hartrich** and **Annette Lynch**, promise that it will be an interesting and valuable military exhibit – one that you will not want to miss. Grand Opening on August 30th. (See 1st page of the newsletter). **Jim Kocher** is also helping with the exhibit set up.



*At left: **Don Ablinger**, president of the **Sainte Marie State Bank** and one of our advisors on the Foundation*

House and museum project, looks at a collection of materials.

New Sun Porch Solar Shades



What we like about the new solar shades – we can see through them, yet they cut the intense sun. Thanks again to **Maurice and Maxine Calvert** for donating these perfect shades.

Recent Visitors



Jim and Mary Lou (Hahn) Kessler, former Ste. Marie area residents who now live in Nevada, visited the Foundation House on June 23 with her sister **Madonna Schackmann**, Newton.

(l-r) **Madonna and Mary Lou** seated on the bench dedicated to their parents, on the south lawn of the Foundation House.

“We just had to see what was going on at the House while we were in the area,” said Mary Lou.

We are always pleased to see our friends from far away. Stay for a few days the next time!

Why We Do What We Do

By *Pat Reis*

Sometimes people will ask: *Why are you doing this?* (starting the Foundation and continuing to work to make it happen)

I often don’t have a ready answer, except that I feel intuitively that the Foundation was “meant to be.”

But recently I read an article in a *Readers Digest*, Sept. 2013, that answered the question so well I thought I might share it with all of you.

Titled *The Stories That Bind Us*, by Bruce Feiler (originally printed in the *New York Times*), the article relates how “Strong families know -- and teach the next generation -- their histories.” Why? Well, research (mainly from Emory University) has shown that children

who know where their families came from and what they accomplished (or overcame) were more resilient and happy. They tended to do better when they faced challenges.

Those of us involved with the Foundation believe that it is worthwhile to know family history and to have a place to “come home to” when you want to visit Sainte Marie with your children, grandchildren, friends, etc. – and that’s the Foundation House. If you want your family to thrive for generations to come, tell them about your history, show them where you went to church and school, talk about the town/farm/area where you grew up or visited your grandparents.

David Wilshire, Spencer, IN, and a grandson of **Mon and Mathilda Spitzer**, said to me recently, “I feel sorry for people who don’t have a place like Ste. Marie in their past.” He remembers fondly the many extended-family gatherings that took place in our little hometown. And that’s why he is choosing to do some carpentry work for the Foundation House – “giving back”, he says.

Many others are “giving back” by volunteering (and yes, we can always use your volunteer help as the Foundation is totally managed by volunteers!) or giving us \$\$ donations. It all helps. And so many of you have responded to our calls for help that I truly believe you feel the same way I do.

To read the entire article, see

<http://thelegacyprojectusa.com/the-stories-that-bind-us-in-the-new-york-times/>

My best as always,
Pat

Planned Giving to the Foundation

How can we keep the Foundation viable in the future? One way is to leave a **bequest**, which could be cash, land, securities or a percentage of the residue of one’s estate. Here’s some wording you might include in your will or trust: “I ____ (name) hereby bequeath to the Sainte Marie Foundation the sum of \$_____ (or percent of my estate), or (____ percent of the remainder of my estate). The Foundation’s tax ID number is 26-1199788. One of our expert Board members will answer your questions if you have any. Just drop us an e-mail at www.saintemariefoundation.org/CONTACT. Or if you just want to send us a check, you may do so by sending it to the Sainte Marie Foundation, P.O. Box 186, Sainte Marie, IL 62459.



The roof is finally finished! The roofers started last fall and ran out of time. The back part of the House (above), which had a metal roof, was completed in May. And what happened to the tin roof? We recycled it – to the chicken house (see below). Obviously, this building, at the back of our property, still has a long way to go before being restored. But it now has a decent roof and is no longer leaning to the south.

