

*The*  
***Gary Interstate***

Established Sept. 6, 1878; the only newspaper in the world solely interested in the welfare of Gary, SD and vicinity.

Owned and Published By

The

***Gary Historical Association***

**A monthly newspaper with news of the past and present. April 2009 issue.**

[www.garysd.com](http://www.garysd.com)

“The opinions in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gary Historical Association.”

***Be informed of what is going on in your town!***

**Gary City Council is the first Monday of the month @ 7:30 p.m.**

**Gary Historical Association Tuesday, April 21, 7:00 pm @ Fire Hall**

**Gary Community Club meets the fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m., Fire Hall meeting room**

**Gate City Economic Development meets third Thursday, Fire Hall, 7:00p.m.**

**In an effort to keep you updated on the former School for the Blind:**



Moving ahead at break neck speed seems to be the theme at the Buffalo Ridge Resort. The picture at the left shows the new ceiling beams being installed in the Sundance Ballroom located in Woodbury Hall. There is running water in the building and sheetrock abounds. In the Herrick Hotel, the rooms are framed up and they are getting ready for the plumbing. We have been told that they hope to start seeing new windows being installed the second week in April. Grabow Construction has also made way for a second stairway in the Herrick Hotel.

### **Grave Marker Update**

By Travis Baer

Over the last year a few members and non-members of the Gary Historical Association have been very busy. Busy on what you ask? Everything from planning the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July celebration to collecting histories of people and places in the Gary area. There are many projects that we are working on as well as trying to get finished. Currently we are working on getting a new website up and running, trying to get several places on the National Historic Register, listing all the property histories, the obituaries of all the residents of Grand View Cemetery, and several others. Many of the projects that we are working on are slated to be done by the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July celebration.

When you head out on your Memorial Day weekend, if you are visiting the cemetery you might notice a change. At Grandview Cemetery in Gary 100 of the total 179 unmarked graves will be marked! Travis Baer Gary Historical Assn' Director spear-headed a project starting last year to mark all graves that did not have a stone or marker.

To date almost \$3,000 has been raise by corporate donations and private parties. Baer said that having 60 percent plus graves marked in one year is a great achievement for Gary Historical

Association and my-self. We are showing the commitment and pride we have to the community and the surrounding area. A lot of the grave makers that are being place will be looking like they have been there for years; some of the graves being marked are over close to 120 years old and are children. We wanted make the stones look like they had history to and not like they were just made and set there. On May 9th the first 100 markers should be in place by Travis Baer GHA Director of Tracy MN, Roger Baer GHA President of Gary, and Phillip Smith of Clear Lake. Please take a moment if you're in Gary to take a look at the new stones and plague markers that are currently there.

Below are photos of the process being used to make the grave markers.



## **Fishing Tourney**

By Will Stone

### **Second Annual Gary Historical Association Fishing Tourney**

The weather cooperated and the fish bit making for a great day" said Will Stone, organizer or the 2nd annual Gary Historical Assoc. fishing tournament held on Lake Oliver March 14. What looked like a generally slow perch, only day got pretty exciting at weigh in time. Renae Norton and Dan Barsness were the first to bring in their catch and each turned out to be the winning bass. They had the only bass caught for the day and they were dandies. Renae's bass tipped the scale at 3 lbs. and Dan's at 2 lbs 6 oz. Jim Keimig's 5.b 6 oz northern took top prize in that category beating out several that weighed in at just over 5 lbs. His 8 oz perch was also tops in that species.. In the kids division Taylor Mack's 8 oz perch was the winner while Colby Riebstein's 5 lb 2 oz northern topped the kids catch of the day. It must be spring; even the bullheads were hungry as Davin Dahl's 8 ounce catch was a winner. The Gary Historical Association wants to thank all who participated. You will want to reserve March 13, 2010 on your calendar for the 3rd annual tourney.

The Gary Historical Association would like to thank all who participated and to thank Will Stone for spearheading this event. Check out page 2 for pictures.



Renee Norton and Dan Barsness show off winning bass. Carson Troska checks out his 4lb 8oz catch



Colby Riebstien (right) 5lb 2 oz northern



Jim Keimig with 5 lb 6 oz northern and 8 oz perch

We as a community will need to work hard at getting all of the things done that need doing before the celebration. Are you able to be involved and help in any way?

## **Down Memory Lane**

By

Bernice Jensen

### **Master Gardeners**

The Seed Catalogs are coming to homes and it will soon be time to plan and start a garden. Starting plants from seed is interesting and a joy to watch them grow. I never had any luck. My plants grew up like a string and their heads drooped down and fell over.

When I was a child, I remember several master gardeners in Gary and the area. One of the great gardeners in Gary was Dock Heiney. His wife's name was Mae and I only knew her as a lady with poor health. Docs sister Kate Mc Nammer lived with them and assisted Mae. Doc spent the summer with several gardens in the area. He raised all the vegetables that could be raised in this climate. Doc was not a man that ever spoke of religion, but on Thanksgiving their table was adorned with the vegetables that he grew in his many gardens. He said a table prayer that was

lengthy. His son Johnnie said the gravy turned to jelly before the prayer ended. They also had a daughter Violet. Both Johnnie and Violet had great personalities. Doc had a old truck and a hill North of town that the people called Doc Heineys hill. He would speed up going down the hill and there was a curve and several times he didn't make the corner and went in the ditch. Well, Doc is in the ditch again the people would remark. I am sure that Doc sold some of his vegetables to stores and to individuals. I only remember him as a gardener.

The next gardener was Mr. and Mrs. Eikamp and they lived one mile west of town. The Eikamps raised and sold fruit and vegetables and they also made great cheese. Mother purchased asparagus from them every year. It was before freezers and they were canned to enjoy in the winter.

One spring we visited the Eikamps for asparagus. They had just turned out a huge block of cheese. It was round with caraway seed and was a beautiful yellow color. It would be sold to a store and resold by the pound there. We walked out to the garden and it was beautiful. They had so many kinds of vegetables and not a weed. Mr. Eikamp also farmed.

Mr. and Mrs. Dumke owned and operated a small dairy on the farm that David Denekamp lived on for many years. The Dumkes sold milk, cream and made ice cream. The cave is still on the farm and it was cold and the dairy products were stored there. They had a large garden and sold vegetables.

These three are just a few of the many gardeners. All mothers had a garden and it was a joy to see them. My mother and her sisters had competitions to see who could can the most vegetables and fruit. These are wonderful memories of yesterday.

Today we have master gardeners as well. Leona Stone has a large garden with vegetables and flowers. Leona spends a lot of time keeping it clean and productive. I enjoy driving by to see it. The late Donald Bekaert had a wonderful garden and flowers and Lilly does a fine job of keeping it up. The late Rocky Engessor had a large garden and flowers which Carol is continuing to grow. Eleanor Giese had a big garden as well.

Opal Olson, who's home was in the Gate City Housing at Gary, loved flowers and gardening. She made the front of the apartment house look like a garden in the park. Opal is no longer with us, as she passed away on March 26. Her garden looks so lonely. I hope that some one will keep it up. I am sure Opal has her flower garden in Heaven.

## NOTICE

All current and former members of the Methodist Church choir are invited to join in one great choir anthem on Sunday, July 5 at the church. We will rehearse one hour before services, so check for the time of services in the newspaper, or call Cochrane's at 605-272-5553. If it works out and everyone would like, we will also sing a song at the Alumni Banquet.

Thanks

Jim Cochrane

**Another Item of Interest:** This year the Gary Methodist Church will be 130 years old. It is the oldest Methodist Church in the State of South Dakota. The bell in the bell tower is the original bell.

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## **MEMORIES FROM THE HEART**

By Betty Schaefer McCormick

Every now and then I get really hungry for some of my parents homemade cottage cheese. It was the best. I remember the big white dish pan sitting on our cob burning kitchen cook stove with a white dish towel over it to keep out insects and germs. The milk from our own cows was in that pan and the curds were forming and we as a family were waiting for the first dish. Dad or Mom, when she could still walk and get around on her wheel chair, would look in every now and then and see how the curds were forming. When the curds were formed and they thought it was ready the whey would be squeezed out and the cheese was ready. What a treat. There is no cottage cheese as good as what my parents made. Jim, my husband, says his Mom's was the best and I am sure in his household it was the best. Either way, homemade cottage cheese is the best. This past week Jim and I visited the National Cheese Judging Contest held here in Green Bay. There were 1,360 cheeses to be judged. It was an awesome sight. We meet and visited with two of the judges from South Dakota State University. After three days of judging, the overall top champion was crowned. The cheese maker was from Antigo, WI. You could just see the pride on his face. We talked to him afterwards and he had been working on just the right recipe for such an award winning cheese for quite some time. It made me think of Mom or Dad when they had just the right recipe for their homemade goodies.

Also Mom's homemade bread was something to be reckoned with. She would get up early and get her bread mixed and rising. In later years when her Arthritis was very severe, she would knead the dough for exercising her hands. Sometimes, she would fry some rounds of dough in hot fat, which is what was used then, not oil like today, and when the dough was done frying, sugar was sifted over it, or a person could pour syrup over it. That was such a treat. As I am typing this, I can smell the aroma from the kitchen.

Dad also was a very good maker of Head Cheese. Now I know some of you, readers, would never consider eating that. Dad used only the best cuts of the leftover meat from the bones when he was done butchering. The meats and spices were mixed and put in cheese cloth and when it was done processing; Dad would cut the wonderful tasting meat for our sandwiches. I have never tasted Head Cheese as good as my Dad's.

My Mother's doughnuts were the best, just the right amount of spice and cooked in hot lard to perfection, as well as her sugar cookies, just the right amount of ingredients to make the sugars the best ever tasted. Our neighbor, Mary Kennedy, also made a wonderful sugar cookie. Esther Denekamp made wonderful doughnuts. Her daughter, Darlene, and I would come home from school and smell them as we entered the front yard. What a treat after a day of school.

Mom and Dad would can hundreds of jars of fruits and vegetables for our family. They were wonderful providers. They were always willing to share the food with the less fortunate. I can remember Dad telling me to go to the cellar and get some canned jars of food for a family less fortunate.

After butchering, the tallow was used to make homemade laundry soap. The best kind of soap to keep your whites –white. I can find good homemade soap when I visit one of the Amish shops. When they hang out their clothes, they are white. I enjoy driving by their farms and seeing the clothes blowing, their beautiful gardens and the children playing old fashioned games.

This time of year I have been thinking of the garden planning my parents would be doing. I have started with some of our plans. We just can't plant in our garden plot because all the deer and wild life enjoy our garden tremendously. We now make deck gardens, using big pails from our local deli and bakery. The deer have gotten way too healthy compliments of the McCormick's gardens.

I know all of you have your favorites that your Mom's and Dad's have made. Relish those memories. Those goodies were all made from the heart and not heated up in a Microwave. They were made with much love, kneading, standing over hot stoves and no air conditioning, and served to their loved ones with pride. How fortunate we are to have such wonderful memories.

**We as a community** need to work hard at getting all of the things done that need doing before the celebration. Are you able to be involved and help in any way? Are you willing to do your share?

## **In Retrospect**

By Buck Asher

Julia Hubbs Reese, a graduate from Gary High School, has written an interesting account of her father's attendance in the Gary School. Information concerning the early school is difficult to obtain. The most reliable states that the school was organized in 1879. Professor A.S. Cummings Merrill served as the first Principal from 1879 to 1886. The records are very incomplete concerning the early years of Gary School. It was evidently during those years that Julia wrote. The following is from her account.

My father's parents came to Dakota Territory in 1880 and homesteaded six miles west of Gary near the tracks of the Chicago Northwestern Railroad. Charley and Lon were the oldest of the ten children of Warren and Laura Hubbs. Busy as he was on the homestead, my father had his sights set on the Gary Academy. Six miles was too far to walk every day so he persuaded Lon to help him build a shack in the Gary gulch to stay in during the week. Friday afternoons they hiked back to the homestead to help with the farm work and stock their basket with more food for the next week.

The school was close to the highest railroad bridge in town and my father said the boys gave Professor Merrill some trouble clambering up the bridge abutments and hanging on the trestle as the trains thundered across. My father was too busy with his books and his janitor work to fool around. He earned tuition for himself and his brother Lon cleaning the schoolhouse and stoking the stoves. They bought their own books.

Professor Merrill must have been a brilliant man and a dedicated teacher. He offered courses in mathematics, history and literature and judging by my father's competence, I know he taught them thoroughly. When I needed help with grade school or high school math, my father could explain the principles of it better than most of my teachers. He knew his American History and was no slouch in his knowledge of European wars and the kings and queens that blooded the face of Europe to claim their divine rights. Whatever was covered in the literature classes gave him a lasting taste for good poetry and prose. He was forever quoting excerpts from the writing of Thomas Carlyle and he memorized whole passages from Tennyson and Browning. He and my mother coached many of the Norwegian and German immigrant neighbors for citizenship examinations, and he caught my mistakes in grammar and bad sentences in letters to my grandmother and made me correct them.

I am sure the high school that grew out of Professor Merrill's academy profited from the high standard of excellence of its prototype. When my sister Edith attended the new high school, three courses in Latin were added to the curriculum. She tended switchboard nights at the Gary Telephone.

As more teachers could be hired, and more classes offered, the district became able to meet the requirements for an accredited four year high school. My sister Hazel received her diploma in the second graduation class in 1917. When my brother Ward followed her, after WWI, music was taught and an orchestra was organized and manual training had been added to the curriculum. Home economics and library training were available by the time my class of 1927 came along.

My brother Roy said that his Latin and math courses helped him to make it in medical school. My sister Hazel studied both Latin and German until WWI when patriotic zealots put a stop to all teaching of German. My brother Ward played in the new orchestra organized after WWI, and he also took manual training and made a sturdy desk that was still standing in the old farmhouse when the last Hubbs moved. Out. I learned to understand the Dewey Decimal system, Superintendent Charles Lindsay allowed me to have charge of the library in 1927. I also took advantage of home economics courses, and my son and husband insist they like my cooking. If those of us still around say our high school was a good one, and I am sure we all agree that we attended one to the best schools around.

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#### SENIOR OF THE WEEK

Gail Frank Sander

Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sander

Born on November 23, 1947

His eyes are blue, hair brown, and his nickname is Smokey. Among his favorite thing are the song, She's a Must to Avoid, favorite singers is Leslie Gore, and Elvis Presley. His favorite movie is Gold finger and his favorite actress is Annette Funicello and actor Elvis Presley. He can usually be found eating a hamburger while studying his bookkeeping or watching his favorite TV show, the Man from Uncle, or reading his book, Street Rod. His favorite color is rose and he enjoys dancing to modern music and the Spider and the Crabs. His favorite car is his Chevy and his pastime is fixing his car. His future ambition is to be a mechanic. Favorite saying is What's new, and his pet peeve is people who don't like long hair.

Yvonne Marie Winrow

Parents are Mr. and Mrs. Merle Winrow.

Yvonne was born in Canby MN on August 4, 1948. She has hazel eyes, brown hair and goes by the name, "Vonnie." Among her favorites are the song, The Ballad of the Green Beret, singers Elvis Presley and Jodi Miller, Rock Hudson and Doris Day and the movie, Billie. She enjoys eating fried chicken and reading the book, Sister of the Bride or studying her government assignment. Her favorite color is blue and flowers are roses. She enjoys dancing to new and old time music and particularly enjoys the Chivons band.

Her car is the Chevy, her pastime is singing and playing the piano and watching the TV program, Our Private World. Her future ambition is to operate IBM machines, saying is Mercy, and her

pet peeve is, People who are in everything. Her prized possession is all the memories she made at good old G.H.S.

### **Mothers Day**

M is for the many years she loved me  
O is for the ornery things I did  
T is for the truth she taught me  
Honor and faith to when just a kid  
E is for her ever patience  
Right is vest she always said  
Sorrow comes from wrongful doing

Don't ever to that way be led  
Always make ah honest way  
Youth will soon be gone forever  
So don't forget its Mothers Day.  
Marietta Thomas

### **Gary Historical Association Newsletter from the President**

**WOW!!** Another huge celebration is being planned for the July 3,4 and 5<sup>th</sup> of July. The third and fourth are chucked full of entertainment for the guests of our community. The fifth will be the All School Reunion. If you remember the 135<sup>th</sup> celebration, there was hardly a moment with nothing to do. It looks as though the 2009 celebration will be the same. There are also some new activities being planned for your enjoyment. Things such as a watermelon eating contest. And possibly to go with the soap box derby, a heavy weight group. Wouldn't it be fun to see them land in the lake? Did you know that you can see the lake if you stand up by what I call Harvey's Station? All in all we hope that you will be able to go back home thinking that you had a great holiday weekend. We should have the schedule of events ready by mid May. We also hope to have the Museum open during the celebration also.

Invitations for the **All School Reunion** are about ready to go out. The Transition team is working on the plans for the occasion. We can tell you that it will be held on July 5, 2009 in the Sundance ballroom, in Woodbury Hall (girl's dorm). Registration will start at approximately 10:30 a.m. and the program will go till about 2:00 p.m. Food will be available from about 11:00a.m. and will be served until everyone has had a chance to eat. The theme for the program will be "Acres of Diamonds". There will be a tour of the complex after the reunion. We also hope to have the museum complex open for your enjoyment. If you are reading this issue of the Gary Interstate and we do not have your correct address, please send it to us along with your email address.

Please continue to watch for updates on the All School Reunion.