

The
Gary Interstate

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Owned and Published

By The

GARY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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



HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE GARY INTERSTATE.

By Connie Severson keys02@frontiernet.net

What a beautiful way that spring has started out this year. It is such nice weather that you may think that next week will be summer. Within six weeks, school will be out and we will all be able to take in all the summer activities such as swimming, baseball, softball, tennis, fishing, picnics, and many other things.

I would like to take this means of recognizing all of the contestants that were involved in the Miss Gary Contest that took place March 10th. All the girls were very attractive and very deserving of the crown. Although, only one could be crowned Miss Gary, the recipient of the crown was Lydia Trieb, a ninth grade student at the Deuel High School in Clear Lake. She is the daughter of Phil Trieb and Mary Nosbush of Gary. Lydia was also the recipient of the \$200 Scholarship given by the City of Gary. Amber Thompson Peterreins who was queen of the 125th Anniversary celebration of Gary ten years ago, crowned Lydia Trieb queen as Miss Gary of the 135th celebration.

The runner-up was Jenni Maas, senior and daughter of Steve and Sharon Maas of Pleasant Valley, rural Gary. Jenni was also the recipient of the \$100 scholarship given by Energy Maintenance Service of Gary. Butch Hendrickson of Madison, Minnesota was guest soloist and sang the song, Sixteen. The contestants also performed a musical number from Sound of Music. They sang it to Butch Hendrickson.

Randy and Joyce Meyer of rural Gary, sang their version, ‘Country Roads Take Me Home’ by John Denver. Their words to the song described the Gary community.

The day was almost as beautiful as the girls and a wonderful way to start the 135th Anniversary celebration of Gary. Time is getting closer to the celebration which takes place, June 30th, July 1st, 2nd, & 3rd so make plans to attend, have a joyous time and help make more memories for the history books.

LET’S PLAY BALL

By Connie Severson

Old files are a great source of information. Finding things to make sure you have the earliest possible information sometimes takes a lot of reading and sore eyes.

The very first baseball games were played north of the Blind Asylum or the place located where Jimmie Cole had his little farm or just NE of the race track where they raced horses.

I did find out that Bob Hertzberg was known as Gary’s best baseball player in 1887.

On July 4, 1891, the Gary team played baseball on the diamond north of where the Blind Asylum was built, which was also known as the fairgrounds. Gary played Clear Lake on the fourth of July and Gary won, 10 to one.

The ball games have always been a heritage of Gary and always drew large crowds of people as they had some bleachers on the southeast side for seating while many sat on the hillside. There were so many beautiful shade trees that made it cool and inviting. The park was also in the area of Lake Elsie so many brought picnic baskets of food and enjoyed eating and visiting old friends, neighbors and relatives.

The Gary Baseball Team lost to the Freeland Township boys 10 to 21, during the fair at Gary, September 21 – 23, 1892.

For a few years, baseball was not recorded but June of 1895, the Gary Baseball Club was re-organized. Secretary E. E. Leshner was treasurer; John Stevens and Charles Cobb were co-captains.

Gary again played baseball with the Freeland Township boys on June 21 of 1895 and this time, Gary won 10 to nine.

Players at that time were: W. Gordon, 3rd base; B.J. Gordon, left field; D. Campbell, 1st base, B. E. O'Shea, short stop; A. Bartels, 2nd base; E. Leshner, catcher; J. Stevens, center field; C. Gage, right field; H. Garlock, pitcher; G. Hanson, right field; P. Hanson, catcher, J. Olson, left field; G. Tilbury, center; M. Hanson, 1st base; N. Hendrickson, pitcher; B. Hanson, short stop; W. Olson, 3rd base; S. Tilbury, 2nd base.

The Gary Baseball Club traveled to Clear Lake to play on their diamond in 1896 and played a triumphant game of 32 to 24 over Clear Lake.

Baseball lapsed or was not recorded until 1932 when Earl McPeck organized a team. They had a winning season in 1933, '34 & '35. The Tiger Baseball team lost its last game in the state tournament to the Watertown Swift Packers. There was a lapse in baseball again until 1943. Possibly at this time or a year or two earlier that is when Ben Dahle managed the Gary team.

Roy Gilbertson was a Gary baseball player from 1946 to 1954 and played 1st base. He was among Eldon, catcher and Billy Stone, pitcher, Lefty Milton, Howard Stuerman, Erwin Baer, Harry Olsen, left short stop, played from 1943 to 1958, Clifford Carlson and many others. While interviewing Mike Gilbertson, he stated that his dad, "Roy Gilbertson and Eldon & Billy Stone and Lefty Johnson and maybe a few more were possible players that professional scouts were considering for the minor league because they were so good".

Harry Olsen also played with the Canby Comets Baseball team for three years.

When Roy Gilbertson retired, Erwin Baer took Roy's 1st base position and he played for about 13 years for the Gary Tigers team.

In the year of 1947, the Gary Tigers won the State Champion title.



First game in the new Legion field Labolt at Gary August 3, 1947.



This picture was taken in 1948 of the Junior Legion ball team. Coach is Buck Asher. Also pictured from left to right is Dick Lovaas, Ray Eng, Alan Lovaas, Donald Sueverkruepp, ?, ?, ?, Buck Asher.

Front row: George Lohr, Bob Burns.

Dick Sheehan was manager of the Gary team and was instrumental in getting the land purchased from Ernest Collins and the baseball diamond was built South of Gary on the hill in 1947. Dick was in the elevator for awhile but also opened a Sport Shop in Watertown. There were two no-hitter games played in 1947 but the first game played on the new diamond on the hill was August 3, 1947. Hank Sarkis was a retired professional baseball umpire and resided in Watertown. Dick Sheehan approached Mr. Sarkis about umpiring the Gary Tiger Baseball team.

Mr. Hank Sarkis agreed and umpired for three to four years. It was also during these years that Vernon Dale (Skeeter) Donaldson played baseball. He played 2nd base and according to Erwin Baer, Skeeter was the name that Vernon was really known by and he was a very good, quick, fast moving player. Mr. Sarkis was very important to the Gary team as he gave the team many really good pointers from professional baseball.

Howard Stuerman hit the first home run on the field up on the hill in 1948.

While visiting with Leona Stone, she told me that her husband, Eldon Stone, ate, drank, lived and breathed baseball. Eldon was a catcher and also a coach for many years. While the Gary team played by Highway 212, Antelope Valley, Eldon hit a home run that made the win. He hit the ball well into the field so far that no one went after it. Later, Pauline, Mrs. Carl Schmahl looked for the ball in the field and found it so that

Eldon could have it for a keepsake. Pauline also sold tickets for a Gary dance so that the proceeds of the dance could go toward the baseball club.

Leona Stone also said that William (Billy) Stone had pitched a no-hitter and so did Lefty Milton. In the 1950's, the Gary Liners played in the Eastern Dakota League.

The Gary Legion turned the field over to the city of Gary in 1977. A building was erected for bathrooms and concessions and bleachers. They were all improvements for the team and all of the supporters that attended the games.

When visiting with Mike Gilbertson, Arnold and Erwin Baer, Harry Olsen, Neatha Donaldson, a comment heard from all of them was, baseball drew crowds of 100's regardless of the heat. Ball to this area was just plain good living.

Thanks to all who gave good information and comments.

I will continue baseball for the next 60 years in May.

**A few thoughts from
Memories of the Heart
By Betty Schafer McCormick**

It is a warm, lazy, summer day in Gary, S D. Grandchildren are playing in our yard. The family has gotten together for Sunday dinner. We have probably enjoyed fried chicken, potato salad, homemade pies and whatever anyone else has brought for us to enjoy. My Aunt Ida and Uncle Joe probably have joined us.

After dinner, dishes are done, the women share ideas and the children play. The men will congregate outside and visit. They watch over the older children while the smaller children are with the women. Neighbor children probably have also come over seeing other children in our yard. A game of kick ball or baseball is probably being played. We all play hard, wanting to win.

Lemonade will probably be available for all the thirsty souls. That is possibly the strongest drink being served. I don't remember beer being available. Coffee will be inside the house with various treats.

Sometime around four o'clock before everyone is thinking about heading home, Grandpa Schaefer thinks it is time for the usual trip to Mason's Station for the "ICE CREAM CONE." That is the time all children talk about when visiting my parents.

We pile into the car or cars depending on how many are going and start choosing our flavors before we get there.

As we enter Rose and Gerald will greet us. Rose and Gerald, the owners, are one of the happiest and nicest couples I have ever known. They always share conversation with their customers and seem genuinely happy to see us. The grandchildren all line up and have their selections made. The cones are so generous and you have to start licking as soon as you are handed the cone. We visit a bit more; most of the top layer has now been licked so it is fairly safe for a ride home in the car. We have chosen to bring a cone home to my Mother who so enjoyed her Sunday Ice Cream Drives when she was well. Farewells are given, children all aboard and we head home.

We finish our ice cream licking in the front yard; soon it is time for everyone to head home. Milking has to be done, or a long drive home. I can still see my Dad waving to everyone. He waves till he can no longer see the car. It is always a little sad when the nieces and nephews go home. I await another visit, maybe a few days, maybe a few weeks.

Time to clean up, Mom and Dad will discuss the day, I will find a good book and go to my room. I love the summer evenings. My sheer curtains blow in the breeze, windows will be open all night and I can enjoy the fragrant breezes of Gary, South Dakota.

NEW TABS

There are two new tabs being placed on the www.garysd.com web site. They are Gate City Economic Development and Gary City Library. Take a look at what the Gate City Economic Development has done for our town and keep up to date on the new things they are doing to help keep our town viable. And of course Vera, at the City Library always has new books and other things to help our reading enjoyment.

Did you know that the Gary City council meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m.?

Monday, April 2, 7:30

Be informed of what is going on in your town!

Other Meetings in April:

135th Planning Meeting, April 10, 7:00 P.M. and the Fire Hall
Gary Historical Association, April 14, 10:00 A.M. at the Fire Hall
Gate City Economic Development, April 24, 6:00 P.M. at the Alibi
Community Club, April 26, 7:30 P.M. at the Fire Hall

OUR SEED CATALOG

This morning when the mail man came
He brought a little breath of spring,
A catalog of colors bright
Of flowers and almost everything.

So many flowers of every hue
And trees of every kind,
And vines of many colored leaves
Which over a trellis twine.

The vegetables look so very nice
All in their brightest shade,
But when we grow them by ourselves
That wondrous beauty seems to fade.

It makes one wish that spring was here
So we could work in Mother earth,
And plant the very tiny seeds
And watch them in their early birth.

It's fun to labor with the soil
And see each sprout appear,
And watch the things that slowly grow
And glad that spring is really here.

But no matter if we try so very hard
And apply the food plants we know,
They are not pretty, gay and bright
Like in the catalog they show.

--Marietta Thomas

I would like to say **thank you** to all that have given to the tin ceiling and the band shell projects so far. We are very fortunate to have citizens in our community, alumni and members that are so willing to help preserve the history of this town. I hope that you will be pleased when you see the results of your efforts when we get these projects finished. We can still use another \$1500 in donations for these projects. We are three quarters of the way to our goal. Please help us if you can. Your donation is tax deductible and we will give you a receipt for your donation. **Would you like to have your name on the plaque?**

Roger Baer

President, Gary Historical Association

One of our alumni, **Angie Keimig**, has started a fund raiser to help raise funds for the City of Gary's 135th celebration and Gary Historical Association's 40th birthday celebration. All you have to do is click on the site just below. Once there, click on "find a project". Then click on the drop down box and click on South Dakota. Then enter "Gary" into the empty box right next to it. Just click on SEARCH and it will take you to the "Fix Up Gary" slot. Just click on that and it will take you to the Gary project. At the bottom of the page just enter your name, your email address and your comments. There is no cost to you and it just takes a few minutes of your time. Let's win that money!!

www.myhometownhelper.com



These pictures are being sold on ebay. Thanks to Mary Grabow for the information.



Dear Friends,

As a child Mother would take me with her when she visited with her elder friends and I am so grateful for these memories. The memory of one of the ladies was Margaret Kaskie. Margaret was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Mahar. She lived north of town on the road to the cemetery.



Margaret's family was Susan and Mike Mahar. They were our neighbors and that is how I met Margaret, a happy little Irish lady with a different accent from her mother country. Margaret lived with her father and when she met you she would say, "You little dear, it is good to see you." I always wanted to visit her, but mother always said that she is too busy with the care of her father.

One day my cousin Margaret asked me to ride along to visit Aunt Margaret and her husband John. I was 12 or 13 and as excited as if going to the circus. I loved to hear her talk, and she was so happy that we came to visit her. We entered through the east door into the dining room. I thought how beautiful the yard would look at sun rise with the lilac bushes and several perennials that made the yard smell so good.

When we entered the house I thought we stepped back 50 years. The furniture was so great with black walnut and marble tops. Margaret invited us into her father's room. He was a very kind old man, so happy to see Cousin Margaret and asked about Johnnie. I was introduced to him and made to feel so welcome by him. He was in bed where he spent most of his time now. He patted the bed for me to sit down and visit a minute with him. His bedroom was so beautiful with a large black headboard that was 8 to 10 feet high with carving and spoon carvings and a dresser and night stand to match. I loved furniture like this and also Victorian. I wanted to see the rest of this house. Across the dining room through a double door way was the living room. The double door way had velvet ropes draped across. In their day they were very stylish but they were deteriorated and some were broken and hanging down. Margaret did not want to change anything from her old home. There was more black walnut, a Victorian love seat, and wing back chairs, a lovely library table and an old pump organ on the north wall and all sitting on an old Victorian rug. I stood in amazement. The wallpaper was old, faded, but still very beautiful. The kitchen was large with a stove, and dining room table. The house seemed stopped in time. I thought that I would like to live here and do the house up my way. It was time to leave and I had to promised to come back

I asked Mother if I could go again several months later and she said, "NO!" As soon as I learned to drive, I would go to visit Margaret and she told me about the furniture that their family moved from Iowa and showed me pictures of her in front of a big lovely Victorian home with a porch with pillows and carpenters lace. We walked around the flower garden and she gave me a little advice about growing things such as what is a good thing to fertilize plants with and then she told me that she wanted a bird in the house. The next time that I went to visit she had a bird that she baited and caught in a big wire cage. It was a pigeon. I had several visits to Margaret's home and each time I was cleaning house, I would think what a gift to enjoy so much in a simple way and appreciate everything so much.

That visit was 65 years ago and I still think of those peaceful visits.

I have been researching where Col. Grays home was located and no one could help me, until one day I called Johnnie Fitzpatrick to reminisce. I asked him this same question that I had asked many of the old timers. Johnnie knew where he lived. He said that Col. Gray sold his home to his Grandfather Mahar. I was so happy. Johnnie is that where Margaret lived? I spent much time there. Then I was so pleased when Roger and Shar Baer brought me a picture of the old Gray\Mahar home.

Come along down Memory Lane and we will have a great time.

There is an old saying that goes: Before winter is over, snow has to fall on a geese back three times. If that is the case, we have more winter coming. I wonder though, if they were talking here or somewhere else?

GARY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
Newsletter from the president

Pioneering in Dakota Territory
Homesteading In Dakota Territory
A reprint from an autobiography by John Stanley
Contributed by Diane Bartels Doyle

If anyone would like to enter family history on the web site, just email the information to us. We will be glad to add your family history to our community history as time and space permits. We do reserve the right to edit all information sent.

Roger Baer, President