

Down Memory Lane

By

Bernice Jensen

Today we will visit Gary and remind ourselves of the homes that are no longer a part of the town. We will start on the far north end of Coteau Street by the City pump house. Between David Petersons home at 1301 Coteau Street and the pump house, there was a home owned by W.C. Hoy. Mr. Hoy moved the house to his farm north of Gary where they lived for several years. Bob and Harmena Weidrich lived there for many years and during that time they added on to the house. The farm was sold after their death and all the buildings are gone.

The next empty lot is where Henry and Neva Schaefer lived and it was owned by Fred Hunt. After Neva passed on, Henry moved to his old home in Monroe. I was told it was the Pettijohn home years ago. Birde Spanton also lived in this dwelling for many years. The next vacant lot was the Bartell home where Art and Ethel Bartel lived. This is located just to the south of Gertrude Baer's house. Art was a State Representative and later in years he managed the City Liquor Store. He was a great business man and Ethel was a charming lady. Across the street was a small one story home and for years it was the telephone office. In later years, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Carter lived in the home. Mrs. Carter was a quilter and Mr. Carter was retired, and when Mr. Carter lost his hearing, his wife would say she wrote to dad and I couldn't figure out why. Then one day when visiting, she wrote him a note on a chalk board and I understood what she meant.

The next vacant lot (present location of Marilyn Koeppen's home) was the home of Milt Griffen. He and Mr. Ed Eng owned and operated an implement business in Gary. Later Mr. and Mrs. John Larson lived there and then yours truly purchased it from the Larson estate in 1959. My family and I lived there and Pearly and Myrtle Shepard purchased it from us. A lady from Marietta, Minnesota purchased it and then it was sold to David Denekamp and it was torn down later.

Across the street and north on the corner across from John Hentges home, was a small house where a chiropractor had an office several days a week. This is just to the south of where Mrs. Mercer now lives. Later Gust Weinberg lived in this house. We go to the corner to the south and make a right turn and on the left side there was the house where Marietta Thomas lived. Down the street to the corner turn left and go south, there is a vacant lot where Earl and Mary Gordon lived on the left in the later years until the time of their deaths. They were my neighbors and a joy to all that lived around them. Mary was a special lady. Milt and Olga Jensen lived there when they first moved back to Gary. Arlo and Mary Zimmerman lived there when they were first married. In the location of the new home that Lorraine Miller owned was a home built by the Hudson family. They moved into Gary from a farm northwest of Gary where the Eldon Stone family latter lived. It was also the home of Mrs. Lena (Fred) Moeller. Bobby Johnson and his mother also lived in this home.

At the corner of Lac Qui Parle St and Main is the vacant lot where the home of Leona and Clinton Priest stood and they also had a filling station there. This filling station was also owned by Ding (Ingvald) Hinsvark. Much later Thorval and Carol Engessor lived there till they moved across the street to the west, where the Ben Jensen family lived.

Down the hill was a long standing home without buildings. Many families lived there. Emmett and Louise Mercer and their family lived there for many years. My younger boys enjoyed visiting the Mercers and the creek and wild life there. They have great memories of visiting the Mercers. Louise and I were good friends, so we had some great times. The next vacant home is

the Frank Helmberger home which is north of the Neil Schmacher home. On the south side of the lot was the home of the Gene Huffman family, and I am not sure but I remember my family saying that Earl Firstine built it??

We will follow the creek, and on the street going East and West, turning right by the old Dessler house and on the north side was a small frame house where Gust Miller and wife Anna lived. Further on up the street, was a home with a lower level with a basement and ground level walk-in entrances. They had a living room and two bedrooms upstairs. Ed Battles lived there for many years and later Cecil Dunn purchased it and used it as a rental. Several families lived there like the Van Steenbergs. My husband Richard Bindert and our family lived there for six weeks. It was a very cozy home and later a Brown family lived there as well. The next home is that of Mr. and Mrs. John Kennedy, a dear hard working family. I don't know much about the home on the corner of Lac Qui Parle St going north was the Doc Heiney home that is no longer there. This home was between the Ed Cornell home and lodge that Will and Fay Stone own. Mrs. William (Ella) lived there for a period of time and also Norman Bailey and his wife. Doc was a master gardener and had many gardens in the area. His wife Mae died young with cancer and there was at least one daughter Violet and son John and his family lived there for several years.

At the corner of Lac Qui Parle Street and 2nd Avenue on the south side was a small two story frame home where Ed and LaVonne Lorenzen lived and they were the only family that I am aware of that lived there. Across the Street was a two story house where years ago Walt and Frances Miller lived, and Barney and Peggy Potthoff lived there when they were first married, and Fred and Lizzie Marsch lived there with their family later. Mike Miller purchased the home and took it down as it was so old and unsafe. West across the creek and on the south side, was the Harry Meyer house, and the first family that I remember living there was a family named Benson. Their daughter Gertie King and her husband Bill lived there until they moved out of the area and Ben Benson (Big Ben) lived in the home until he passed away and then his sister Selma and her husband Bill Teigen moved back from Sioux Falls and lived there till Harry Meyer purchased it. It now has a very attractive home on the location. We will move on up the street going west where there is an old foundation in the trees. There was a big beautiful Victorian home standing there and owned by a Christiansen family. Mr. Christianson was the brother of the late Mrs. Will Stone, Eldon Stones mother. The home burned down when the family was gone. Next is where the home is the location where the late Nick and Rosa Lenertz used to live. . The original home was a saloon when the town was very young. My parents also lived there for many years. There is now a log cabin on that property.

Our next stop is the property on the North West corner of Richard and Linda Rols property. The Ras Anderson family lived in a small two story house and Mrs. Anderson was a seamstress and a charming lady.

Over to the left, across the road, on the property that is owned by Franz Vanderdoes, is where Colonel Gray and his family lived and he was an auctioneer. Later it was the home of the Mahar family. We will take a left and go on the property of Rol and the Terry Wiedrich. This was the home of Eilly and Viola Lindberg. It was a small frame home in which Viola did much entertaining.

The Hans Hinsvark home was in the area between Franz Vanderdoes and the corner. Hans was the grandfather of Mrs. Margaret Saltee. They were a kind and caring family. If I remember right, Hans was a shoe repair man??

There was a large Victorian home on the Jean Hinsvark property. Calvin and Margaret Zanke purchased it and moved to their farm west of Burr. Margaret told me when they purchased the home that it was furnished with antique furniture that they didn't need and at that time it was considered old furniture. They dug a hole and buried many pieces. Jeans house was built over those lovely pieces.

These are the homes west of main street and next month I will cover the east side. My goal is to research every home in Gary and name the original owners. If you have any questions, do not be afraid to contact me.