

*The*  
**Gary Interstate**

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

**GARY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION**

**A monthly newspaper with news of the past and present. February 2007 issue.**

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

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



**HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE GARY INTERSTATE.**

We are well on our way into the year 2007 with Auld Lang Syne echoed across the nation with many making resolutions in hopes of keeping them. January's full moon is behind us and the birthday celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Encroaching on us now is Ground Hog Day and the anticipation of whether he will see his shadow or not. If he does see his shadow, legend has it that the ground hog will go back to hibernation and there will be six more weeks of winter. If not, spring will be here!!

Valentine's Day is one of the most popular days of all holidays. Sweethearts give candy, flowers and other gifts all in the name of St. Valentine. Then comes the start of lent. Ash Wednesday is February 21 and many people will sacrifice something during this time. Many times it is foods of certain kinds, going to bed earlier, giving up of some of their time to do kinder deeds for others, etc. With only a couple of months, we can already tell that this year will soon pass and another will be echoing in our ears. I wish all of you a most blessed year and most importantly, make it a good year for all those whom you come in contact with. [keys02@frontiernet.net](mailto:keys02@frontiernet.net)

**HOMETOWN BOY COMES HOME:**

By Connie Severson [keys02@frontiernet.net](mailto:keys02@frontiernet.net)

The main street of Gary, S.D., is looking a little different these days.

What started as a hobby of cars as a young boy has developed into a business for Jason Steele, son of Gene and Betty Steele.

Jason attended and graduated from the Gary Public High School in Gary, S.D. He then attended the South Dakota State University for Electrical Engineering. He was later employed at the Eilers' Motor Repair & Bulk Service in Canby, Minnesota. Three years later, he had the opportunity to purchase a station in Taunton, Minnesota. Jason remained there for 17 years and thoroughly enjoyed what he was doing. In the fall of 2005, Jason was contacted by some of the Gary business people who informed him that Johnny's One Stop (formerly the Cenex station) was for sale. They encouraged Jason to think about it and make the offer to purchase the station. They said, "The town would be honored and proud to have him." After a lot of consideration, Jason eventually did purchase Johnny's One Stop on October of 2005. He is now the proud owner of Steele's Service. One year later, Steele felt the need to have a larger service area. He decided to build onto his station, three more stalls with the addition of two more new hoists. He now can accommodate his customers better with the addition and another full time employee, Odean Thorsteinson. Two other part time employees are: Lance Hinsvark and Dallas Stone. Steele's business is thriving and he always wants his customers to be priority by giving them the personal service that they need and in a timely manner.

Steele has two sons Justin age 23, a farmer that farms south of Lake Cochrane and around the Hendricks area. Kaleb age 19 is attending Lake Area Technical in Watertown, S.D. for Construction Management. Steele hired Steve McCormick to pour the cement floor to the new addition. Leon Kaiser and Jim Denelsbeck were hired to do the welding projects and Steele's son Kaleb did the construction of the building.

Steele is happy that he made the commitment to come back to his home town and have a flourishing business and be closer to his family. He also appreciates the support of all the business people and the local and area people.

Steele also does radiator repair, has tires for sale, and works on automobiles, trucks, pickups plus motorcycles. His shop is open: Monday through Friday from 7:00am to 6:00pm; Saturday from 7:00am to 5:00pm; Sunday from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Steele says, "We guarantee our work and can provide any service for your vehicles. We also provide full service at the gas pumps."

Anyone in need of these services can call for an appointment at: 605-272-5863 or just stop in and see the new addition and introduce yourselves. We are here to accommodate you.



### **OPEN HOUSE:**

An open house will be held for Eldeen Baer to celebrate her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. It will be held, Sunday, February 11, from 1:30p.m. to 3:30p.m., at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church Reception Hall in Gary. Her children and their families are hosting the event.

### **Do you remember?**

In a 1998 issue of the Gary Interstate, in an article written by Lynda Jensen, someone was given the title of "The Timemaster". Do you know who that was? The first one to email [rstbaer@itctel.com](mailto:rstbaer@itctel.com) with the right name gets their name in the next Gary Inter State.

### **My first and only experience with driving cattle**

A memory submitted by Rae Knipe, daughter of Simon and Emma Knipe

My parents were moving from a farm just west of Canby which used to be the old Denelsbeck farm to the farm by Gary which was just south of Hauger's school house. This was about 10 – 12 miles. I was to help with moving the cattle, a herd of 12 or more, which was done by walking. I was in my early 20's and was teaching near the Bliss farm. My brother Bill and his friend Wyman Zitlow were supposed to follow me with my Ford car, but they slid off into the ditch and I had to start off by myself. I did not know where the farm was and Dad was further behind hauling some equipment with a team of horses and a wagon. I decided to not go very fast as I wasn't sure yet exactly where I was going. Eventually, Dad caught up to me as I was nearly to our new home. I was never so happy to see my Dad.

### **Memories from the heart:**

A memory from Betty McCormick in a March 4, 1998 issue of the Gary Interstate

As a young girl I was most fortunate to have as a neighbor Selma Tietjen and her husband, William. Selma and Bill retired to Gary after his years as a musician, some of which he played with a circus band. Bill also taught band at the high school so some of the readers will remember him as their band teacher. I remember Selma as a very warm, dear lady. She and Bill always had a large garden as their social security barely covered living costs. Selma could set the most beautiful table and serve the most elegant luncheon. She would play piano for me and we would talk about so many topics. Since she and Bill had traveled a great deal, due to his music career, she had many stories to share with me.

In the summer we would sit on her porch steps and when the weather would be too cool we would retreat to her small but beautifully decorated living room. She always encouraged me to go on to college and travel and choose my friends wisely.

Whenever I came home for a weekend from college or work, I would visit her and she and I would have wonderful conversations.

Later, when I moved away from the Gary area, we would share our thoughts and ideas in letters. Selma also wrote a column for the Gary Interstate. I so enjoyed reading those articles. The one thing I remember about Selma was her beautiful complexion and what a wise lady she was, a lady of grace and poise. Oh, how I would, for just one more time, enjoy sitting in her comfortable living room and listening to her play the piano and later enjoying coffee and one of her desserts.

## IN PAST ISSUES:

**January 4, 1945:** Mrs. Helmberger disposed of her café, located between the Odd Fellows building and Stellmacher's blacksmith shop, which she has conducted for about eleven years, as she has purchased a hatchery at Presho. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Cole will take possession on Monday, and on Tuesday Mrs. Helmberger and daughter-in-law, Mrs. Darrell Helmberger, will go to Presho to arrange for living Quarters there.

### **January 14, 1887:**

Market report: Wheat .62; Corn .35; Oats .25; Barley .25; Flax .63; Potatoes .50

Provisions: Butter 10 ½ @ 15; Eggs 12 ½; Flour \$2.40 per cwt; corn meal \$1.60 per cwt.

J.G. Hardy is filling his ice house this week and we understand will put up about 100 tons during the winter.

Lavin Bros. Purchased this week the ice house near the pond, formerly owned by Manicom & Shaw and will fill the building with choice blocks of solidified coolness for use next summer.

The Presbyterian choir will hold a rehearsal this evening in the Philharmonic hall.

A couple of men with a sleigh load of nice pickerel did a lively cash business on our streets last Saturday. It was the first load of the season, and the finny beauties were soon disposed of.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist church will meet next Friday afternoon and evening at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. D. Goltry. A general invitation is extended to the public.

- **Lone Tree Lake Lakelets:**

Dance at W.C. Sills last Friday night

Willie, son of W.P. Hubbs has been quite sick.,

Arthur Kenyon has gone to Brookings to school.

W.C. Sills expects his better half to return home in a few weeks.

C.W. and L.P. Hubbs are taking a course of study under teacher Sturges.

W.G. Gordon is having much trouble these days with the injuries he received while serving Uncle Sam in the late rebellion.

Many of our farmers are compelled these dry and cold times, to drive their stock to water a distance of three and four miles, or else haul the water to them.

Lone Tree Lake, the famous watering place of Deuel county, has at last frozen over, but not for a great while. When old Sol swings back to the north a few days, the lake will open up for the summer campaign.

H.H. Sturges opened his school in district No. 31 Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup>, after a week's vacation.

Mr. and Mrs. W.P. Hubbs and Mrs. B.O. Roe, made a trip to Revillo one day last week.

### **January 21, 1887:**

Geo. Fitzsimons, of Canby, Sundayed at the Herrick House, and left for home in the storm Monday.

The turn table at this place was broken one day last week and carpenters have been at work this week repairing the damage.

We have lost our files of the Inter State of the issue of Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1886 and will pay 25 cents a copy for a paper of the date.

J.V. Wells and Geo. Clark will put up considerable ice this winter for next season's use. The ice now being taken from the pond is about two feet thick, clear and solid as a bell.

Mrs. Campbell is sick this week. We asked her husband what ailed her and he informed us that "she caught a cold and it settled all over her."

Our Methodist friends have an entertainment under way to be given upon the arrival of their new bell. The society lacked a few dollars of having enough to pay for the bell, and the proceeds of the entertainment will be used to make up the deficiency.

Our mill, which for some time has been running in hard luck, has finally got down to business and at the present time is turning out a quality of flour unequalled in Dakota. A change of millers this week has brought about a wonderful improvement and our mill is now all right.

Friend Howard, of the News, failed to get elected for clerk at the recent city election, and was so mad about the matter that he went right off and got married. Such recklessness should never be displayed among editors, and we believe Bro. Howard should be hauled over the coals.

The Northwestern company will sell round trip tickets from this place to St. Paul during the carnival for \$6.90.

If any of our readers wish to know or experience the pleasure of editing a country newspaper during a dull season, they should visit Gary at the present time. We have had no train for a week, no one from abroad

come to town and no one from here has gone away. There have been no marriages, births or deaths, no entertainments of any nature whatever, and at the present time there is no prospect for a jail for several days.

The **INTER STATE** is unable to account for the slothful condition of the matrimonial market of Gary. Notwithstanding the fact that every enterprising thermometer in the city has paid a visit to the lowest notch on the scale, at least twice this winter, not a single marriage has taken place as yet in the town. What's the reason with the peoples anyhow? Such little one horse towns as Canby, Marietta and Kransburg, have a wedding or two each week. Why can't Gary? We're willing.

### **January 28, 1887:**

The hard coal which arrived Sunday was quickly disposed of by our dealers on the day following at \$10.75 per ton.

Captain Harkins is chairman of the military committee and has been appointed on several other committees of importance.

The Lathrop herd of 286 head of cattle reached town Monday evening and have been taken to their winter quarters up the gulch.

We understand that A.W. Kelsey had the misfortune to lose a valuable horse one day last week. This breaks up a team for Mr. Kelsey and he can illy afford the loss.

A half demented steer belonging to W.C.Sills became disgusted with the continuous storms of the present winter, and made up its mind that it would rather die than witness another such a spell of cold weather. Accordingly the poor old fool of a brute hung himself in the barn the other night, and is now a first class cattle corpse.

The trough or spout that connects the pond with the pump house that supplies the railroad water tank, for the first time since it was built, is frozen solid. Two men have been at work this week taking up the spout and getting the water into the pump house. Only three feet of water remained in the tank Tuesday, not enough to supply an engine on a hand car.

### **January 7, 1998:**

Mavis Benner-Johnson earns top honors at S.D.S.U. with a Masters Degree in Counseling and Human Resource Development. She graduated from Gary High School in 1949.

## **My Valentine**

I found it in my attic dark  
While looking thru my souvenirs,  
The ones which bring fond memories back  
And so many unshed tears.

Way in the bottom of the box  
Lay this heart of reddish shade,  
It was truly not a work of art  
But was one my son had made.

It lay among the many things  
Which one keeps thru childhood days,  
The time grows quickly into years  
But the memory always stays.

The paste had oozed far out the edge  
Which held all letters there,  
The heart was cut in crooked shape  
But the words were placed with care.

Cards and letters once a prize  
From folks so long ago,  
Some long have been in Jesus' care  
Where others are I do not know.

"All my love to Mom" it said  
On this special valentine,  
I'll keep it thru the years to come  
This message from that son of mine.

--Marietta Thomas

## **Happy Valentines Day!**

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 \$2500 in donations for these projects. Please help us if you can. Your donation is tax deductible and we will give you a receipt for your donation.

Roger Baer

President, Gary Historical Association

Dear Friends,

In the 30's and 40's I can only remember three hardware stores in Gary. Our first stop will be the Kenyon Hardware. That building now is the home of the Alibi café to the west and the east side was the home of the Kenyon store. Judd Kenyon, Sr. and his brother Byron owned and managed the Kenyon Hardware. Their store was well stocked with mostly necessary merchandise like cream cans, wash tubs, boards, water pails, dish pans for washing dishes needed especially before running water was available in the rural areas. There were also some houses in Gary that did not have running water so there was a night chamber for after dark use in the winter months when running out to the outhouse was not a pleasurable option. Also available at the hardware were De Laval cream separators, Dexter washing machines, rinse tubs, and boilers, paint, both exterior and interior for homes and outbuildings. There was mostly red paint for the barns and white for a house. Times were hard and there was not many frills. We used kerosene and gas and oil lamps. Chimneys for the lamps, burners and wicks were common items sold at the store.



Kenyon's Hardware sold gasoline. The pump stood on the side walk in front of the store. The stairway between the two stores served as a passage to the apartments over the hardware store and there was a dance hall over Kenyon grocery. I only attended a couple of dances with my cousin Margaret and John Fitzpatrick. I could not dance!!! That was the end of my dancing career at that time.

Do you remember the chicken coops for a mother hen and her chicks to call home??

Later Judson Kenyon the II took over the store and he did electrical work and added LP gas. Judson and his wife Dorothy had one child, a son named Judson the III.

The next hardware stop is Ed and Alice Huffman's Hardware store where the vacant lot is next to the post office building. Mother needed Pyrex pie pans so we stopped at the store. It was bright and cheery with many toys and house wares. The toy department was a child's dream come true, and our parents said just to look and not touch. The dolls were so beautiful and stood up in their boxes wearing fluffy pastel dresses and beautiful bonnets, shoes and socks with chubby legs and eyes that opened and closed.

My brother Henry was so interested in the tractors, caterpillars, toy farm wagons and machinery, barn sets with animals and fences. We would mark out a section and we would tell our parents if we could have anything in that area what it would be. It was a fun game. The toys were made so strong and durable. I just knew that one doll with a yellow chiffon dress was wishing that she could come home with me.

The Christmas of 1934, I looked at a china tea set and I talked about them all the way home and every time we went to town. Christmas Eve I got up at least three times, went down the stairs and looked around the corner of the living room but there were no dishes under the tree. I doubted Santa Claus many times but Mom and Dad knew how bad I wanted those china dishes. Didn't they let him know??? Henry's caterpillar was not under the tree either or the truck that he wanted. At five o'clock Henry and I came down stairs and under the tree were the china dishes and Henry's caterpillar and truck. Mom and Dad were my first coffee guests!!

Barney and Lena Hunt owned and operated the Gamble Store beside the first Gary bank; the building is no longer standing. Our parents purchased a bicycle for Henry and me to share. Jackie was now 2 to 3 yrs old and he got a tricycle. Henry taught me to ride with these simple instructions: Set on the seat, steady the handle bars and remember to use the brake.

In the rural area there was no electricity but we did have a real tree that smelled so good! With no lights, we used candles that were set in holders that clipped on the tree branches. The ornaments were so beautiful. Looking through the eyes of a child everything was so mystical. You are never alone if you have good memories.

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

# GARY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

## JANUARY 2007 NEWSLETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

10:00 A.M. AT THE FIREHALL MEETING ROOM

First of all I would like to say **thank you** to all that have given to the tin ceiling project 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 to see the results of your efforts when we get these projects finished. We can still use another \$2500 in donations for these projects. Please help us if you can. Your donation is tax deductible and we will give you a receipt for your donation.

We had our meeting on January 20. There were several items discussed that were old business. We are gathering the prices to put the plaque on the wall in the library for the donations to the microfilms. We have several fund raisers in process. These fundraisers will be for both the Gary Historical Association and the costs of the 135<sup>th</sup> celebration.

Pat Denelsbeck came with the suggestion of having a calendar to sell for the 135<sup>th</sup>. The end result is we'll have some great pictures along with a lot of old dates to remember and the names of a lot of old businesses that were in Gary in years gone by. These calendars will be a good reference as well as a keepsake. The calendar will also have a tab at the bottom that will be taken off and the name of the purchaser written on it and entered into several cash prize drawings of \$25 each.

We will also be selling toothpick holders and one quart crocks with the G.H.A. 40<sup>th</sup> on them as well as the Gary 135<sup>th</sup>. Marlene Lien, our co-historian, is in charge of this project.

We will also be printing up packs of postcards with old Gary pictures on them to sell.

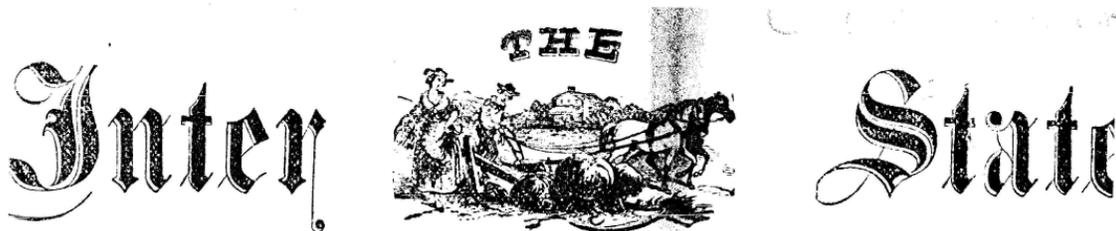
The 40 year G.H.A. history group is putting their final touches on our history which will be printed for sale.

The Gary Historical Association is also planning to put together a hard cover book about the Gary Community, but we will start on this later this year after the celebration. You will find it very interesting.

If any of you would like to contribute a memory to the Gary Interstate please send to [rstbaer@itctel.com](mailto:rstbaer@itctel.com)  
We will consider all offers and try to fit in where possible.

Remember to check the Gary website every once in a while. There are always changes being made and new things added. We have been fortunate to be given a list of teachers and families that attended the Rush Lake country school and will have these on the web soon. Also, Cloie Brevik is adding some family history for their family. If anyone would like to do the same, just email the information to us. We will be glad to add your family history to our community history as time and space permits.

This is how the header looked on the Gary Interstate back in 1887. Can anyone tell me what the picture represents? Please respond to [rstbaer@itctel.com](mailto:rstbaer@itctel.com) Thanks for your help and support. Roger Baer, President, Gary Historical Association.



Devoted to the Interests of Eastern Dakota and Western Minnesota.

GARY, DAKOTA, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1887.