

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. February 2009 issue.

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“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 Sunday, February 15, 1:00 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:



These first two pictures are showing the auditorium area. The floor has been dug up for underground plumbing. The stage has also been removed as it had been a haven for coon.



This is a picture of the As you can see the interior leaving only the outside bearing hall walls.



second story of the boy's dorm. cross walls have been removed walls and the interior load



The picture to the left shows one of the crews starting the restoration process on the doors and woodwork in the boy's dorm. The picture to the right shows the south end of the auditorium where the kitchen will be. The restrooms will be in the southeast corner.



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.

This paper was printed by DNB NATIONAL BANK. We want to thank them for this service!



You should be able to see the School for the Blind buildings and the old court house building to the back and in between. Do you remember anyone talking to you about this picture? Do you have an original of this picture and if so can we use it to get a copy and then return it to you? If you do, please let us know by email at rstbaer@itctel.com Or send us a note at 705 Lac Qui Parle St., Gary, SD 57237

MEMORIES FROM THE HEART

By Betty Schaefer McCormick

Another year will soon be upon us as I type this message. Two thousand eight will have many memories- some sad, some happy, financial stress, weddings, funerals, graduations, births, new jobs, all in all --another typical year.

I always have good memories no matter how tough the year has been. One year in particular will always be special in my heart. It is the year my husband and I were stationed at Ft. Riley, KS. He received his Captain's Bars and I became a very active officer's wife, volunteering at the USO, Officers' Wives Club, helping with various functions. Being an Officer's Wife can be a fulltime job, and I let it be that. I will always cherish the memories that I have from those fifteen months. I learned all about calling cards, serving cocktails, entertaining at a high level, military balls, and always being ready to support your husband in his career. Growing up in a small town like Gary, SD, this was a real eye opener, and I dearly enjoyed it.

That Christmas was very special to me. Jim was Company Commander and I enjoyed all the activities that went with this appointment. I baked cookies and made candy for his men. We purchased a Christmas tree and ornaments for them so they could have Christmas in their activity room. We did not take our vacation until mid January, so we could be there with them to help them celebrate.

Christmas Dinner was very special. Jim and I received a special invitation to eat in the mess hall. Jim had an outstanding crew in his mess hall. So many officers and wives and families came from the other Companies came to eat in his mess hall. The General and his wife joined us for that special dinner. We had a wonderful meal starting with the Shrimp Cocktail and finishing with the various desserts. Beautiful Christmas music played and the conversation was wonderful. We also spent our Thanksgiving Meal with the soldiers. I was so hoping our son, Daniel, was able to enjoy such a meal when he was recently deployed to Kuwait, but he tells me

“no”. His meal was served in the field and the holiday meal was gone so he got the usual packaged ration. I am glad I learned about this later and not before.

Also I cherish the memories of being with the soldiers as they returned from Viet Nam to Irwin Army Hospital. The Officers’ Wives would help the soldiers with writing to their families, visiting with them and doing whatever we could to make their stay a bit more pleasant. Some of the injuries were very difficult for me. These soldiers were my age, 23 or younger, and I was not prepared. I never broke down but stayed strong, but they have always been in my thoughts and prayers. I hope they were all able to go back into society and lead wonderful lives. They certainly deserved it.

Jim and I were fortunate to have on base housing. A beautiful red brick, Colonial two story home. It was about a block from the Officers’ Club and Golf Course. Our neighbors were all young Captains and Majors and we women formed a wonderful bond as our husbands were very busy with their careers. We women would watch the Army Band practice on the field as it was right in our backyard. It is truly amazing how I grew from a young girl in a small town in Gary, SD, to a mature woman in a matter of fifteen months. Our Battalion Commander’s Wife was from the Deep South. The Colonel and his wife took us younger wives under their wing and showed us the correct way to conduct ourselves in the military. It was a wonderful experience. They were outstanding and I owe a great amount to them.

Our first child was born at Ft. Riley; my stay was seven days and cost seven dollars. A dollar a day for the food I ate. There were many of us delivering babies at the time, which is true during war time; usually the birth rate goes up. There were about ten to twelve of us mothers in the ward. Some of the young Mothers did not have their husbands on base. They were in Viet Nam, but the Mothers were allowed to use the hospital facilities. We were a strong supportive group. Shortly after Bryan was born, two dozen red roses were delivered to my bedside. The other Mothers and Nurses were so impressed, “wow,” they said “, your husband must really love you. “ I was shocked also. Jim is pretty quiet and reserved, small personal gifts, not big showy bouquets of flowers. However, I did receive red roses from him when he was stationed in Korea on my twenty first birthday. I opened the card, and to my amazement, the roses were from the enlisted men in Jim’s Company. It is the largest bouquet of red roses I have ever received. Jim’s tour ended the fall of 1970. We came back to South Dakota so he could pursue his graduate studies at South Dakota State University. I was once again a mother and housewife. We lived on a farm by White and in 1972 moved to Sioux Falls. Jim became an employee of the United States Postal Service.

I once again became a busy wife with government functions. I have met some outstanding people in Jim’s career. His positions have taken us to various cities and wonderful co-workers and employees. I have hosted some very large parties, attended some very large parties and now I am busy with my own career. The Colonel’s wife’s advice from Ft. Riley has helped me in many situations.

Jim is retired as Postmaster. We enjoy our large family, traveling and have too many hobbies to mention. We have had some wonderful opportunities and a wonderful life. We are most grateful. So as I look back at some of my fondest memories, those fifteen months are some of the best. You now realize why the American Soldier is so special to me. I truly love and respect all our American men and women as they serve our country and I sincerely hope they had a Blessed Christmas and I wish them the safest and warmest New Year.

Betty Jean Haase age 72 of Brandon, SD, died Monday, January 26, 2009 at her residence. Betty Jean Helmbolt was one of ten children and a daughter of Harry and Beatrice Helmbolt. She was born on March 18, 1936 In Gary, SD. She grew up and received her education in Gary. In 1953 she married Lyle Haase and the couple moved to Brandon where they have lived ever since.

In Retrospect

By Buck Asher

The late William L. Stone wrote an excellent history of the old Gary School which was located where the present day home of Warner Volk (Penny Tolrud) now stands. The following information is taken from that source. The school was established in 1879 just seven years after the founding of Gary. Captain Herrick deeded the land for the building from his homestead near the creek with the agreement that ownership of the land would revert to him when it would no longer be used for a school.

The district was organized and an imposing wooden building of two stories was built in a very scenic spot close to Lac Qui Parle Creek. The younger students held classes in the lower part and the older students in the upper part. There were no state rural schools during the early years. Pupils came from a wide area from as far off as Watertown. Residents of the town provided homes for those attending from distant places. At that time Watertown had but a few people.

Jullia Hubbs Reese told of the high standard of education her father and mother received from the school. The Gary School was the finest school in the area. Attendance at the school was always high causing very crowded conditions. At times it was necessary to hold classes in available rooms in various business buildings.

Ben Jensen, father of Geraldine Hubbs tells of exciting times he had while attending the school. The students especially the boys would panic the teachers by climbing on any high structures. Classes were held in the old Fellow's Hall because of the crowded conditions in the school. Conditions forced the district to vote for the construction of a new building in the early 1900's. The new building was completed and classes opened in January of 1904. The old school building was bought by Captain Herrick. It was leased to the local unit of militia similar to our present day National Guard. When the militia disbanded, the school was dismantled. Captain Herrick used part of the lumber to build the present day Warner Volk home.

This paper printed by DNB NATIONAL BANK. We want to thank them for this service!

Our State Flower

Spring is just around the corner, so that old, old saying goes,
How much more snow there will be, is something no one knows.
Some morning the meadowlark will trill, the robin will hop about,
The plover will give his far off wail, and we'll hear the killdeer no doubt.
The grass blades will soon come out, upon the well kept lawn,
The mourning dove will moan his song, at the first bright streak of dawn.
And then the crocus will appear, upon the prairie vast,
Some call it the Mayflower, too but its name is really the Pasque,
For it's the flower of our state, as the pheasant is our bird,
And its call is the most familiar of all natures' sounds you have heard.

The pussy willow will be showing and the leaves upon the trees,
And the buttercup and maiden hair, and we will welcome all of these.
But when the Pasque of purple, shows its bud above the ground,
We will welcome it so proudly, for it's the daintiest to be found.
For it belongs to our state of Sunshine, the best of all of the forty-nine,
But does not always live up to its name, because the sun does not always shine.
But South Dakota is our state, with its prairies vast and wide,
With its lakes and birds and flowers, and we own it with much pride.
-Marietta Thomas

Gary Historical Association Newsletter from the President

Each month that goes by, there are some new things to report about the former School for the Blind. This is of course good. I was also thinking that there are only about 150 days left before the Grand Opening of the **Buffalo Ridge Resort** and the celebration. 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? We also need to plan ahead for the future. If we do things right, we can have more people coming to Gary, spending their money on some good family entertainment. What a great way to finance our city government and the economic development group of this community. Sales tax is one of the easiest taxes to pay as it is a pay as you go tax. The Gary Historical Association will also be able to show off the things that they have gathered over the years. We have accomplished a lot over the last three and a half years and our members should be proud of their membership here. I hope that with their willingness and others willing to contribute financially, that we can continue to show our ability to do different things for this town. Getting back to the new things to report that are going on at the former School for the Blind, here are a few. The asbestos removal has been completed in the two dorms and in the tunnels. That crew is now working in the administration building. The auditorium floor has been taken out. Water and sewer lines have been buried and they are making ready to put in new ceiling supports and will be removing the two center posts. New cement is in for the kitchen and restrooms. New walls and insulation are being put into the upper level of the girls dorm.

The boy's dorm has all the non load bearing walls removed. Most all of the old doors are being saved as well as the woodwork. It is hoped that some of it can be cleaned up and reused in the building.

There is a new internet site being worked on for Gary. It will be a very modern, interesting and user friendly site to use. I am sure that you will be very pleased with its new appearance. We will be able to put a lot more information on it also. We will give you the link to it as soon as it is set up.

We have a little more information on the **Buffalo Ridge Resort**. The **Herrick Hotel** (boy's dorm) will have approximately 19 rooms and two executive suites. Wait till you see that plan. WOW!!! We are not telling about it here at this time. The girl's dorm will be called **Woodbury Hall** and in it will be the **Sundance Ballroom**. And then of course there will be the **Talking Water Campground**. Joe Kolbach and the committee have done a wonderful job in keeping with the history of this town.

Brief History of Gary, SD

- 1872 First permanent railroad entry into Dakota Territory through first land grant in Dakota
- 1873 First locomotive and train reached Gary
- 1874 First mail route in Deuel County
- 1877 Gary officially chartered
- 1878 Deuel County organized
- 1879 Gary Interstate, first newspaper in County, one of oldest in state, First school district in County, Court House built in Gary
- 1882 Presbyterian Church organized
- 1883 Presbyterian Church erected, Birds Eye View map of Gary
- 1886 First Annual Fair of Deuel County
- 1887 M.E. Church Bell, first bell in County
- 1889 First gold strike in eastern South Dakota
- 1890 Court House moved to Clear Lake
- 1897 Presbyterian church bell installed 700#
- 1898 Odd Fellow Building erected
- 1899 Construction of School for the Blind begins, Over 30 cars of Immigrants arrived in Gary
- 1900 South Dakota School for Blind opens (1900-1959), Greene Block built, solid brick building from local product, Presbyterian Church moved to present location
- 1903 New public school built on hill
- 1907 Railroad bridge built of Dakota stone to replace wooden trestle
- 1910 Girls Dormitory built at School for Blind, First graduation class at School for Blind
- 1912 Town Hall (old jail) built of local product, Rowlands Drug Store built
- 1913 New bell for Town Hall 1200 #
- 1916 First graduating class of Gary Public School
- 1917 National Bank built (Rob's Locker)
- 1925 Boys Dormitory erected at School for Blind
- 1932 Gate City Golf Club organized
- 1934 Lake Elsie developed
- 1965 Depot torn down
- 1966 Shady Rest Lodge opens in former School for Blind until 1977, Gary Go Getters 4 H club organized
- 1967 Gary Historical Association organized
- 1970 Hinsvark's donate land in park area to Gary Historical Association
- 1972 Gary Rodeo organized, First of four housing units constructed
- 1973 Gary designated Historic City
- 1976 Railroad marker dedication for the Bicentennial
- 1980 Rails removed east of Gary. Until this time Gary was still served by rail service