

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. January 2007 issue.
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“The opinions in this paper do not necessarily reflect the views of the Gary Historical Association.”

History of Deuel County by Marietta Thomas



The original claim shanty

History of Deuel County

Deuel County was named after Jacob S. Deuel in the year 1862 and is composed of sixteen townships. The smallest being Antelope Valley which was named that on account of the many antelope there at that time. Most of the other townships were names after some man or place. It is about 30 miles long and 21 miles wide. It is bounded on the north by Grant County, south by Brookings County, on the west by Codington and Hamlin Counties, and on the east by Minnesota State Line. It used to be in a territory and took in most of what is North and South Dakota now and part of Nebraska. It was declared a state in the spring of the year of 1889. As far as I know most of the early settlers came in the seventies. My father came in the spring of 1879 to take up his claim where my brother and sister still live. He built a little claim shanty 16' x 24' sitting on large rocks for a foundation, put up a sod barn, dug a well by hand, broke up some land and went back to Minnesota for the winter.

Next spring bringing his wife and two small daughters back to the wilderness S. E. of Goodwin. This claim shanty with two small addition added later, was our home until 1908 when we built the new house. Mother brought a tiny sapling of a cotton wood tree in her trunk which her father had given her. She set it out and it got to be a huge tree in years to come. Lightening struck it, ice and wind broke it and it died from drought in the 30's. Mother's brother gave her a cow which she brought in the immigration car. She was named Vim and raised 19 calves and all were heifers. Father felt she had paid her way so kept her till she died of old age. At the time my father came there were still a few buffalo and antelope and Indians. The Sioux Indians were at peace then but still use their trails across the prairie, and the rings of stone still lay where they had weighted down the flaps of their teepees. The buffalo rings still plainly showed where the bulls had stood stomping flies, with their heads to the outside, to protect the cows and calves which were in the inside of the ring, from the wolves and coyotes which were many in those days. I still can remember the chilling howl of them in the dusk of the evening. The bleached intact skeletons of the buffalo still lay on the prairie and folks would gather the horns and make many beautiful things from them.

Deuel County has several creeks and about 15 large lakes and some smaller ones. Lake Alice is the largest and lies N. E. of Altamont and covers 1100 acres. It was named after John Marher's daughter Alice. Coteau Lake lies west of Altamont and is often called Altamont Lake or Goddard's lake as Mr. Goddard was one of the first settlers and had to drive to Marshall for supplies as there were no nearer towns. The Lake was named after the Coteau Hills which were called Coteau des Prairie. the main street of Gary was named after them and are a string of hills running thru the east central part of the county. The only song I had published was written about them, "When the Sunset Turns the Coteau Hills

to Gold." North of Goodwin there are a chain of lakes consisting of Round Lake, School Lake, Two Woods and Mud lake. It was between two of these lakes that the 39 Indians were captured during the Indian massacre and were later hung from a railroad bridge near Mankato, Minn. The largest hanging in history. Helen Hogie's great uncle helped in the capture. Goodwin lies near the old Indian grounds and many Indian hammers and arrow heads have been found. Clear Lake was named after the county seat or rather the town named after it and lies just east of there. Lake Cochrane lies six miles south of Gary and was named after Byron Cochrane who settled on it's shore in 1872. Fish Lake is N. E. of Astoria. This lake went dry during the drought during the 30's, as did Clear Lake, Lake Alice and others except Lake Cochran which is fed by springs. Lake Francis is four miles N. W. of Gary and was named after the oldest child of Henry Herrick, who was an early resident of Gary and who our township is named after. Lone Tree Lake was so named as one lone tree grew on its banks in early years, but now there are many. Salt Lake lies S. E. of Reville and is different from the rest as the shores are of a reddish hue and when the water evaporates it is white resembling salt. Our county has eight towns. Gary is the oldest. Most of them named after some person. Goodwin was named after a railroad official George P. Goodwin who was afterwards killed in 1878 while he was helping build the railroad and his widow asked to have the town named after him. Now since the Chicago N.W. railroad tracks have been torn up, Altamont and Goodwin are soon to become ghost towns. At that time the railroad only ran to Gary from the east as it does now, after 82 years. Goodwin has the highest altitude of the towns which is 1996 feet and Gary the lowest, which is 1784 feet, making an elevation of 212 feet in the 18 miles. Little wonder that the fireman on the freight train at Gary said it was 18 miles straight up to Goodwin. The other towns are Astoria, Bemis, Brandt, Mortz and Toronto. The town of Bemis used to be called Burnham and then Palmer and later named after one of the towns citizens, Mr. Bemis. Clear Lake was started in the early 80's and my father used to sell buckwheat flour to the railroad crew when building the track. He got the buckwheat ground at the mill in Watertown, which was a long day trip by team. Our Country used to be wild prairie, covered with wild game and flowers, but now man has changed all that in his greed for more land, and breaking up the sod. So many birds have gone especially the prairie chicken, which used to be so plentiful and now we see none.

There were lots of hardships in those pioneer days with our prairie fires and blizzards in winter. We saw hard times but had lots to be thankful for. Deuel county has always been my home, I was born here, married here, and raised my family here. Most of my dear ones who have gone are buried here and I suppose I will die here. I think Deuel County is a little spot of heaven.

Marietta Thomas

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Library News:

This next year will see changes in the large print program. A new program is being set up by the State Library that should begin in a couple of months. The Reader's Digest is now available in Large Print at the library. If you enjoy the National Geographic and the South Dakota magazine, they are at the library to check out. We appreciate all our library patrons and hope to see more in 2007.

Happy New Year,
Vera Meyer, librarian

We would like to wish you a happy and prosperous new year!
From all the members of the Gary Historical Association.
NEW YEARS

Fifty-nine is soon to die
And sixty will be ushered in
With bells to ring and tooting horns
And other things to make a din.

The year that's passing has brought some joy
And other sorrow with Father Time,
It's greeted them with mingled thoughts

When the New Year comes with happy chime.

We know the things that last year brought
For it has passed us by
And only memories of the past

So many hopes that it will bring
The best to every one,
We hope no woe and only joy
For the last one is soon to die.

From morn to setting sun.

To some it will bring the very best
To others burden fall,
Whatever come we only wish
A Happy New Year to you all.

--Mrs. Marietta Thomas

In a November 26, 2006 issue of the St. Paul Pioneer Press, there was an article submitted by a reader who is also receiving the Gary Interstate. It is the following: **The darnedest things:** "Scene: Small South Dakota town (Gary) during the early 1930s Depression days. "Mother was a member of a Woman's Study Club and was scheduled to sing on radio station KWAT at Watertown, S.D. She was accompanied on the piano by the music teacher from the state school for the blind. We did not have a radio at the time. Our Neighbor, the local banker, invited "us kids" to their home to enjoy the program. "Shortly into the program, my little sister started crying: "How are we going to get Mother out of that box?"

In a Friday December 16, 1918 issue of the Gary Interstate there is the following article: Miss Ida J. Landru and Mr. Charles C. Bailey married December 14, 1918, Wednesday evening at 8:00 p.m. at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. O.K. Landru by Rev. W.J. Hoare. They are setting up housekeeping on a farm of the groom northeast of Gary. (Note: This Rev. W.J. Hoare is the person that painted the mural of Lake Elsie that used to be in the State School for the Blind and is now in the Gary Historical Museum).

In a January, 1945 issue of the Gary Interstate there is a senior class who's who. Lois Bierne. On the morning of August 26, the year of 1925 in the city of Gary, South Dakota, we found that the population of this small village had increased by one, as Lois Ann Bierne had put in her first appearance. "Five Foot Two, Eyes of blue," is very appropriate to fit Pokey, as we all call her. Her blonde "feathercut" adds to her neat appearance. Among her favorites come: Color - Blue; Food - Nothing in particular; Subject - American Government; Song - "Wait For Me Mary"; Pastime - Dancing and skating. This year finds Lois a senior and as we look back we find that she has participated in the following: Orchestra, 2 years; Band, 2 years; Home Ec Club, Junior Class Play and is now looking forward to graduation.

In a December, 1950 issue of the Gary Interstate there are the following notes:

Robert Eng, who is attending college at Bozeman, Montana, and Raymond Eng, attending college near Onsted, Michigan arrived here last weekend and are spending the Christmas vacation with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Eng.

Mr. and Mrs Eddie Kehoe (Hazel Reinhardt) of Aitkin, Minn. came Saturday for a Christmas visit with her mother, Mrs Ida Reinhardt and brother Lawrence Reinhardt and family. They returned home Christmas Day.

In a December 2, 1887 issue of the Gary Interstate are "The Local Resume":

Bed blankets \$1.50 per pair.

One of the section men had his right foot badly frozen last Saturday.

Wheat in the Gary market today is worth 56 and 58 cents. Flax 98 cents and oats 25 cents

Mrs. S.N. Grey and daughters are visiting friends this week in the vicinity of Clear Lake.

Prints, at Wells' for the next 30 days will be sold at 5 cents per yard, for spot cash only.

The annual inspector of muskrat houses predicts an open winter. Whether his predictions are correct or not will be determined later in the season.

If there is one thing more than another of which Gary can boast it is her dandy meat market. Mr. Bland is an expert in the meat business and our town is justly proud of his shop.

The Ladies Aid Society of the Presbyterian church will have their monthly social entertainment this Friday afternoon in Philharmonic Hall. All are invited.

O.H. Bucklin opened up his barber shop in the Herrick sample room Saturday and has enjoyed a good trade since. His new chair has not arrived, but he has a good substitute and is a good workman.

J.E.Smith has bills out announcing an auction sale of dry goods etc., at his store every Saturday and Monday afternoons. S.N.Gray has been hired to proclaim the value of the goods and we have no doubt bargains await those who attend these sales.

Agent Moulster made a decided improvement in the office at the depot this week by a rearrangement of the furniture and desks.

We are requested to announce that the regular official monthly meeting of the officers of the M.E. church will be held in the parsonage next Monday evening. A full attendance is desired.

The cold snap rather put a stop to the work of moving the Deuel County bank, but as soon as the weather permits the work will be pushed with all possible speed.

We hope our county correspondents will soon begin to forward the news from their different localities. They ought to be able to devote a portion of one of the long evenings in the week to writing up the neighborhood news.

A very severe snow storm visited this community last Friday night and continued for a good part of the day Saturday. The most of the thermometers in town crawled into their holes and remained out of sight pretty much until Monday, when they assumed their usual place and the weather moderated considerable.

The good prices which the farmers are being paid this fall for potatoes and other produce in the vegetable line, will induce many of them to pay less attention to the growing of wheat and more to the profitable business of gardening and fruit raising.

Mr. and Mrs. Dr. Hyde are the happy parents of an eight pound boy since last Friday morning. The doctor has been accommodating nearly every family in this neighborhood with a boy during the summer and thought it was about time he was securing one for himself before the assortment was exhausted.

A genuine boxing school has been opened up in the building just east of the Inter State office, and the editor is taking daily lessons and will be in shape soon to interview the most offended reader who may favor him with a call.

The lumber for Mr. Gilford Greeley's new stock barn arrived last week and has been delivered on the ground ready to be converted into the building. This barn will be 100 x 28 feet, two stories high and finished in first class style.

Mr. Greeley has several hundred sheep to house in the structure this winter and will have to "hump" himself to get the barn ready for their accommodation.

CHRISTMAS FOR THE KIDS IN GARY:

This year, due to some fast thinking by Will and Fay Stone and the City Finance Officer Pat Denelsbeck, the kids in Gary were able to have a chance to see Santa. We caught Santa down at the log cabin in the museum park. He was just leaving the cabin and tried to leave in the old mail wagon. Unfortunately, he forgot to bring the team of reindeer with him. Here are a couple of pictures.



Next year we hope to expand on the Santa visit using the school house as part of the program.

Dear Friends,

I remember many New Year's Eves of my childhood as it was always a time for family members to get together to play cards, visit, and enjoy special traditional foods. Today we will go back to the New Years Eve of 1937.

Like any other New Years Eve we were with neighbors and family. Just before Dad went out to milk the cows, he asked mother how many were expected for 7:00 pm supper. Mother answered him with about 13 to 15 with kids, but she had saved out milk from the night before and this morning to make the oyster stew and ice cream.



Everyone arrived between 6:30 to 7:00 pm; the kids had their Christmas toys, game boards, and cards for the older children. Oyster stew was served at 7:00 and potato soup was made for the children and those that did not care for oysters. Mother had the buffet set up with all the leftover goodies from Christmas and all the guests brought their leftovers too. We had a good assortment of cookies, candies, lefsa, rosettes, and Aunt Ida's special Norwegian pastries.

After the meal and clean up, the adults got the card games going, the older kids played Chinese checkers and marbles. My four year old brother Jackie was on his new tricycle with his good friend, Charles, standing on the back. The bedroom had two doors and they would go in one and out through the other making noises like a motor. My sister, Viney, was pushing her new doll in my beat up doll buggy. She was so proud of her new Sadie.

My brother Henry was seven and considered himself an older child so he helped Dad with the chores and felt that kicked him up a notch.

It was a very cold evening. The company felt they should be going home, but we must have some of Mothers home-made ice cream. Dad and Henry made a gallon and a half freezer of ice cream and Aunt Ida made a gallon freezer also. This was a real treat and Mother also made popcorn with butter. Mother and Auntie dished up big bowls of ice cream with the Christmas goodies. They decided to have one more game of cards before they would head for home.

I don't remember what time it was but a muffled KA—BOOM was heard with a rippling feeling going through the house. The dogs howled and barked and stillness came over the house. It was so eerie and spooky. I remember thinking, I am glad we are not alone. The men had several ideas of what might have happened: maybe Ding Hinsvark set off some dynamite or the gas station blew up. Some of the Ladies thought maybe it was the world coming to an end. Dad turned on the battery radio which was usually half dead but KNAX announced that there was a bad explosion in Sioux Falls and the Power House had been blown up and no other details known.

Later on the announcement was made that the Dillinger gang, some outlaws, had blown up the Power House while the other half of their gang robbed a bank downtown.

I called my good friend, Leona Carter Stone, and she helped me remember the name of the gang. It was New Years Eve of 1937, 70 years ago in 2007. Leona was visiting and babysitting that night in Sioux Falls on the east side of town. She said she was so afraid and with the knowledge that outlaws were in the area, it was truly a night to remember.

Remember you are never alone if you have good memories.

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

You can contact Bernice through rstbaer@itctel.com

GARY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

First of all I would like to give a big **thank you** to the members of the community for their participation in our bake sale to raise funds for the Association. Fay Stone reported the bake sale had about 19 people donating several items each. Two large tables and card table were filled to overflowing. And then the community came into the bank and bought most everything there. It shows that our community still stands together for the good of all. The profit on the sale was \$437.50.

The Gary Interstate is being delivered to nine businesses and two libraries for distribution in Gary, Clear Lake and Canby. Some are being mailed and delivered to individuals and City Council for a total of over 250 copies printed.

Here again I would like to thank Connie Severson for all the work she does on the Gary Interstate, Bernice Jensen for her "Down Memory Lane", those that deliver our papers to Canby and Clear Lake, our members and the community for their donations to help cover the expense of putting that paper out each month. Your continued support is appreciated.

The Gary Historical Association decided to send out requests to some members of the community for a fund raising donation in December. That request is to help raise the needed funds to replace the tin ceiling in the old jail house. We would like to have this done by June 1, 2007 for the celebration. The committee members for that are Roger Baer, Sharon Stuerman, Will Stone, Patti Haas, Eldeen Baer, & Marlene Lein. If you did not receive a letter this is your chance to donate to that cause. There will be a plaque established on the wall of the jail house with the following categories: \$1000, \$500, \$250 and \$100. Donations can be given as memorials or in family names. We hope that you will participate in this so that we can have that building open during different holidays of the year. It will house the old jail cells, the school score board and other things that members of the community are willing to donate to have on display.

We also decided to fund the making of 100 calendars for the 135th celebration with profits going to the 135th committee. The calendars will have a tear off coupon and buyers would be eligible for a drawing to be held during the celebration for cash awards. **You do not have to be present to win.** The committee for this project is Roger & Sharlotte Baer, Fay Stone, & Pat Denelsbeck. The calendar would have at least 12 pictures of people and places in Gary and significant dates would be noted on the selected days of the month. You or your family may be in one of the pictures.

Santa Claus paid a visit to Gary. Due to some quick thinking from Santa, Mrs. Claus and the City of Gary, treats were provided by the City and Santa made himself available at the log cabin in the Museum Park. Next year we will try to elaborate on that, making it something memorable for the City of Gary.

One last note: The Gary Historical Association has purchased copies of the old papers on microfilm and they are at the library. These make for some very interesting reading, especially on a cold winter day. So just go to the library and ask Vera to load an old paper for you and start reading. The ones from back in the late 1800's are very interesting.

Shar and I hope that all of you have a happy and prosperous new year.

Roger Baer
President
Gary Historical Association

AND NEXT WE HAVE A REQUEST FOR YOU

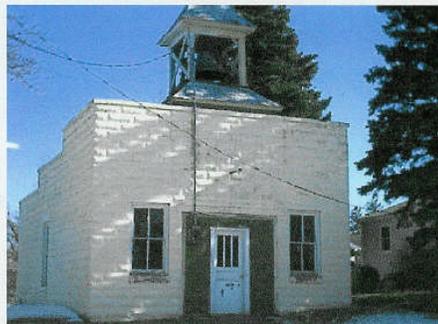
GARY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 83, GARY, SD. 57237

Dear Friend;

This letter is being sent to you as an opportunity to support the activities of the Gary Historical Association. We are in need of your financial help to complete two of the many projects we have undertaken in our 40th anniversary.

The two major projects are installing a tin ceiling and painting the "Jail House" museum and a new roof for the bandshell at the museum park.



Our goal is to raise \$6500 by March 31st, 2007. With tax time around the corner, your contribution to the Gary Historical Association, a non-profit organization, may be of benefit to you. A plaque with contributors names will be established.

The categories will be Platinum \$1000+, Gold \$500+, Silver \$250+, and Bronze \$100+