

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. July 2008 issue.

www.garysd.com

"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 Historical Association July 19, 10:00 a.m. at the Fire Hall meeting room

NOTE: THIS IS OUR ANNUAL MEETING CAST YOUR VOTE

Gate City Development Association July 17, 7:00 p.m. Fire Hall meeting room

Gary Community Club July 24, 7:30 p.m. at the Fire Hall meeting room

July 3 starts the annual celebration with kiddie events, talent show and dance

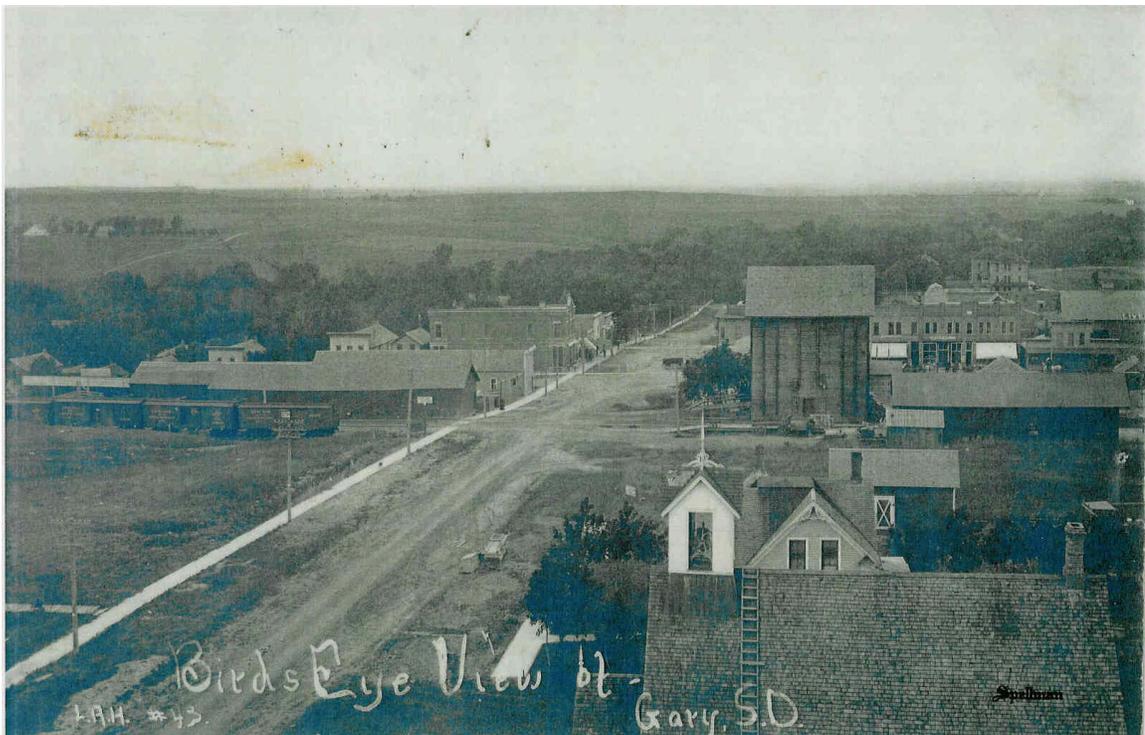
July 5 is car show, art show, soap box derby, bed races and work horse show

July 6 is the All School Reunion 9:00 a.m. and Welcome Sign unveiling 1:00 p.m.

Gary City Council Meeting, July 7, 2008 at 7:30 pm at City Hall

Do you have an obit for anyone buried in Grandview Cemetery? Can you get a copy to us?

We would like to do a short history of each one buried there. Thanks for your help.



What memories does this picture bring back to you?

If you would like to contribute your thoughts to us at rstbaer@itctel.com

Down Memory Lane

By Bernice Jensen



Dear Friends,

It's the last Sunday in June and time for the 74th reunion for the Hunt Family, the descendants of Mortimer Hunt. It is a great event to remember.

Mother would look so forward to this day. She was so proud of her Mother's family, her uncle William and his wife, Jeannette. I can still hear her say, Uncle Bill and Aunt Jeannette, with such pride. Uncle Bill passed away so young, in his 50's. He left a family of seven sons and two daughters. The sons stood by their Mother and worked hard to pay off the mortgage on the farm. My Mother was so proud of that family and that pride was passed down to her family. I know when there were obstacles in my life, I would think of Mother's Aunt Jeannette and that made me strong. If she could do it, so could I and my family, parents and children helped me so much.

Well, now it is time for the reunion. The early forenoon, the local relatives would go into Gary and stake a claim to a picnic area. About 70 to 80 would be present, I am sure. 1934 is my most memorable picnic. Mother loved her Uncle Jess Hunt and his family, cousin Pearl and husband Bud Tally, daughters Bessy, Evelyn, and Shirley. I was so excited; the cars started arriving; mom was looking, "is that Bud and Pearl?" and finally there they were! The ladies were hugging and greeting each other, and the girls were as well as my self, so glad to see each other!

Soon everyone was at the picnic, other cousins, even Marvin Hunt was there as just a young man. His sisters Hilda, Margaret, and Idella, Alice Hartsell and Neva Schaefer, all so friendly and they lived in the Gary area. There were many relatives I did not know and had lost contact with. My mothers sisters were Ida Johnson, and Martha Lentz and their family, Art and Victoria Christopher, and Tom Christopher.

The tables were laden with all the best, all the hot and cold food available. Fried chicken, roasters full, potato salad, beans, cole slaw, water and musk melon, cookies, cake, and pies. Mother and her sister Ida would bake pies and cake(no boxed mixes) and mothers donuts were the best. Early on Sunday morning, the chicken was fried and the house had great smells. Finally, that invitation to come to the table and enjoy the food and fellowship. What a memorable day! After the meal, Lake Elsie was at its prime. The younger children, (I fit in the group of seven year olds), would go into the shallow side. I loved to watch the divers. One lady could do the Swan Dive so beautifully and the Jack Knife. We had a great summer afternoon lunch before we left. The food was put under the table, fried chicken, potato salad, meat sandwiches. Why didn't anyone get sick from food poisoning? All the food was made without electricity or plumbing. The water was all carried in and out. Our parents were great people. That picnic was 74 years ago. Most of the people present have passed on, but the memory they left us is so beautiful.

The Hunt family picnic will be held June 29th and there will be only a few, but they will remember the picnics of yesterday.

Three weeks ago my Bindert family held a great family reunion with family from Texas, California, Utah, Wyoming and South Dakota. It was held at David Binderts home in Stillwater and David did a great job of making this day a memorable event. I was not able to attend because of health issues, but I was there in mind and spirit as I closed my eyes and relaxed in my recliner. I could visualize each car as it drove into the yard. Everyone had a good time. In these years, the families came by air, RV's, so different from the travel methods of years ago.

My Jensen sons were also present and enjoyed the Bindert families. To all the young families: Learn to know your heritage. I enjoy remembering my relatives on both sides of my family, the Schafers, the Christophers, and Hunt families. They gave us so many good memories, so many values, to live by and hang on to.

MEMORIES FROM THE HEART

By Betty Schaefer McCormick

School is out and now it is summer fun! What is more fun than a good old baseball game. Growing up in Gary we enjoyed many impromptu ball games held on empty city lots or in Clyde Helmbolt's yard. A group of us kids would get together and have the most fun playing ball. Nowadays, I don't really see many ball games such as the ones we played when I was growing up. Now it is all organized youth ball, very well coached and very expensive, and many times I see actions by spectators and parents that aren't exactly the most becoming. We kids would just pick our teams and play ball. Squabbles were solved by us and if a kid did go home upset, he or she would soon return and be back in the game. We gained lots of experience, knowledge of the game, and best of learned how to be part of a team and sportsmanship. Probably most importantly we had good old fashioned fun. Sometimes, we would play till it was so dark we couldn't see the ball and we had to get home.

My Dad always enjoyed watching the Legion sponsored team play ball in Gary. I remember seeing cars parked around the ball diamond and watching a good Sunday afternoon game. I don't think any of us kids in my family took my Dad serious that he could play or know anything about ball, till we asked him to hit one day. He was fairly elderly to run so one of us kids would do the running. Well Dad, hit the ball so hard, we never did find it. That pretty much took care of our doubts about Dad knowing anything about baseball.

Sometimes, I see a game being played at church picnics or large family gatherings, but I don't think they are having as much fun as we had playing ball back in Gary, SD.

So maybe this summer or July 4th holiday if you have a group of friends or family over, why not get a good old fashioned baseball or softball game started. Forget all the fancy rules and just have fun and Play Ball. Happy July 4th everyone and don't forget, "Fly our American Flag".

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

We would like to thank **EMS, Joe Kolback** and **his staff** for their generous financial donation.

We would also like to thank DNB National Bank for taking on the task of printing the Gary Interstate now. It is so much appreciated. Also, a thank you to anyone else that has helped us in any way.

If you live in Gary and have your abstract handy, the Gary Historical Association would appreciate a list of the owners of the legal description that you live on starting with the railroad to present. We would like to do this for the whole town. Thanks for your help.

Pioneering in Dakota Territory

A reprint from an autobiography by John Stanley

Contributed by Diane Bartels Doyle

Hail Storm Destroys Crop

By this time we had about 75 acres ready to plant. Occasional snow and later rains had put the ground in fine condition for planting and all crops came forward marvelously. By August our 50-acre wheat field promised a wonderful harvest. It was a beautiful August afternoon that father had us boys get the binder out ready to cut the crop. After all was in readiness to go the sun was considerably passed the meridian and it was decided to wait and begin the harvest fresh and early next morning. Soon after making that decision dark clouds began gathering in the east then raindrops fell, coming down thicker, heavier; suddenly a devastating hailstorm was covering the land as far as the eye could reach. After ten or fifteen minutes of that terrible pounding hail, just as suddenly as it started there was a lull and we started out to investigate the damage. The wind shifted and the storm came back, hailing harder, if possible, than before. It roared, fiercely pounding the fields of grain into a flattened mass of straw. It was a shocking, sickening experience-to have our seasons labor all lost in a few minutes, that wonderfully promising crop destroyed when the family was so desperately in need of the proceeds. The prospects seemed hopeless, but many clouds have a silver lining, and within a few days the straws of grain began to straighten up and sufficient heads of wheat showed themselves to encourage us to bring the mower into use. The wheat field was cut (exceedingly close to the ground) raked and threshed, and to our delight yielded ten bushels to the acre (leaving the other possibly forty bushels scattered over the ground.)

The framework of a large shed was built with heavy posts sunk in the ground, the roof being made of poles and tree limbs, while around and over the structure an immense amount of straw was stacked-that being saved from threshing the hailed-out wheat field, making it a wonderfully comfortable place in the winter for the cows and horses, even though there could be no windows for light.

Pondering Over the Future

Thus going along for a couple of years I found that with possibly occasional assistance my help could be dispensed with and I felt free and was anxious to further my education, by attending the University of Minnesota. The only obstacle was the lack of funds. While pondering over the matter I was offered an opportunity to become the "devil" in the local newspaper office, the Inter-State. Of course I was totally ignorant of what the job meant, but one of my "chums" was an employee of the paper, a good printer, and he promised to make a printer of me in short order. In considering arrangements with the publisher of the paper I found that he thought I wouldn't be worth to him more than three dollars a week, board and lodge myself, also must contract to stay one year. I might have earned much more than that at any sort of work, but concluded that I might become a fair printer-and possibly a "newspaper man" someday, instead of what I had cherished most in the professional line. So I became a "devil" '-doing all the menial things about that little country print shop, and finally was given added duties to the extent of my ability in helping in the post office, copying official documents into the records of the register of deeds office, my employer occupying the triple position of being publisher, postmaster and county register of deeds. There had been no specifications entered into about hours for work, so that from 7AM. to 8 and 9 PM. was not uncommon. Within about three weeks time my printing instructor decided to accept a position on a Duluth, Minnesota, daily paper, and had to quit

forthwith. The publisher was also a printer and I thought I would have his instructing assistance. I got along fairly well, until another three or four weeks passed by, when suddenly the "boss" was called to Washington, leaving me alone to operate the publication. I was a badly flustered kid but I had agreed to stay one year and the thought of quitting did not enter my head, though inwardly I feared I was unequal to the task. But the two weeks of the boss' absence was probably the best thing that could have happened to me, for it gave me confidence and convinced me that someday I could operate a newspaper of my own. My ambition had been aroused. Upon the return of the owner he seemed to have forgotten that he had a newspaper, quite to my disgust at the time because I felt he was treating me unfairly (at \$3 a week) by not offering to do some work, at least on his own newspaper. But I stuck to my job, as agreed, but at the end of the year I served notice that I was going to quit to accept a job at \$10 a week on the Watertown "Dakota News" - a pioneer newspaper established by S. J. Conklin, a prominent editor of those days. He was familiarly known as "Old Conk", and had come from Wisconsin where he had been recognized as an outstanding "scrapper" in the profession. His Dakota News had already become a sensation in the territory and had a wide circulation.

Gary Historical Association Newsletter from the President

Our June 7, 2008 meeting was held on that date at the fire department meeting room. We have been able to finish putting in the new ceiling at the Jail House Information Center and it looks great! Stop by and check out the new concrete at the front of the building. Mike Nosbush along with his crew and help from the City of Gary, did that job for us. It was a much needed repair and the job was sponsored by Gus Van Steenberg with a donation from him and his family. We will also be stocking the information center with literature and interesting information for the visitors to see. Travis Baer is presently working on a couple of pamphlets that pertain to Gary and the historical association. There will also be one pertaining to the railroad. These will be free to the public. DNB National Bank has also agreed to print these for us. Jeff Nothem is also completing the electrical system for us.

Our sound system has been tested and we will put it into use for the coming summer events. It will be a great addition for doing all the events that we do here in the community. We are also working with others in town to put permanent signs at the east and south edge of town that will give a WOW effect for those that drive by. We want them to remember Gary, SD. The cemetery histories are going well. We're getting contributions of obits from individuals in the community as well as alumni. It will make a great history presentation when it is done. We are also putting our best foot forward to help this community make the Lac Qui Parle Creek a real asset for the community. The creek will be stocked again this year. Now we will need to start promoting it.

Some of our members led by Mary Nosbush and assisted by Angel Oeltjenbruns and others have been getting a walking trail and picnic area put together on "Knob Hill". Did you know that one of the oldest oak trees in the area is at the top of that hill? We will let you know where that is when it is finished. Recreating some of the past and making it an asset to the community is our endeavor. We hope that you will enjoy it when finished.

We will be having another celebration this year. Some of it will be the evening of July 3 and the rest will be on Saturday, July 5. That schedule is now posted on the web site www.garysd.com
Roger Baer, President, Gary Historical Association

The Old Bridge

The railroad bridge they say, is gone, in the west part of our town,
A wrecking crew came late last fall, and wrecked and tore our old bridge down.
So went the last link of our track, that so far to the westward lay,
Which was laid by men so long ago, in years gone by in yesterday.
How many people traveled o'er, that is a secret none will know?
The iron horse of long ago, rumbled over the glistening rails.
Its shrilling whistle filled the air, in summer time or winter gales.
It carried folks on journeys gay, and others on a mission sad.
Some to a country far away and some to visit mom and dad.
The old steam power had to go; a modern Diesel took its place.
But trucks and cars have killed its use, in this fast and modern pace.
How many children walked the rails, to others show their courage then.
But now an empty gap is there, to remind us where our bridge has been.
It's hard to see the old things go and replaced with progress new,
I'd rather see those times again, when the old steam whistle blew.

--By Mrs. Marietta Thomas

Selma Remembers From the Gary Interstate 1984

Popular Music from the First World War...The number one song was "The Rose of No-man's-land." Number two was "Old Frenchy." Others were: "If I'm not at the Roll Call, Kiss Mother Goodbye for me," "Little Blue Star in the Window," "Over there," and "K.K.Katy." Now in 1984, this is a question in the game of Trivial Pursuit. Bill and Selma played this music during the First World War.

Thanksgiving Memories...I can see all of us after Thanksgiving dinner. Thank the good Lord again for that day when the Pilgrims arrived in this country with His blessings along he way.

Whistling...A lost art...When have you heard anyone whistle? It used to be a welcome to a sing-a-long. In olden days, professional whistlers traveled the vaudeville circuits of the day. "Listen to the Mocking Bird" and "Danny Boy" are two songs I remember. At one time there was a Chicago whistler's society.

"Ode to the Commode"...The most durable item I own by far, Is my mother's earthen slop jar. Not only was it their port in a storm, But on cold winter nights, in was indoors and warm. Then, flushing commodes came into style, and Ma and Pa stashed it away for awhile, 'Till I brought it forth and polished its face' Now it sits on a pedestal, a beautiful vase... I've been told, "Hang on to that antique vase; we may some day revert to the flushless commode."

Women's lib 1913... Today they think this women's lib is something new. We didn't have a name for it in 1913, but just the same, women got out and did the things men were always accustomed to doing. And they didn't make a big fanfare of it.

Circuses...Many summers in the early days Cole Brothers or West Brothers came to Gary by train. Their tent was put up where Kallhoff's Lumber is. All children stood along the tracks to watch it unload. They always had a parade in the morning. One day during the parade the lion got out of its cage and jumped on a Shetland pony that was pulling a calliope (musical instrument). Some men went into a hardware store, got a gun and shot the lion.

Early Barn dances...People in the older days who built a barn had a dance before the animals took possession. It really was a fun time for all neighbors. The owners always served lunch. The popular dances in that era were: the waltz, the fox-trot, the two-step, the schottish, and the square dance. Margaret Potthoff Bierne played piano for many of these dances.

Gary's names... Gary's name was changed several times through the early years. The first name on record was Headquarters, because it served as a place of operation for Col. DeGraff, the railroad contractor. The next name was State Line, due to the fact that it was located on the Minnesota-South Dakota border line. The Gate City was finally named Gary in honor of H.B.Gary, an early day mail agent.

"Don't Try, Selma"...I'm not going to try to stand up any straighter this year than I did last year, which is a little bent over. It surprises me to consider how long this body lasts. Until I broke my leg, I did all things with it for a long time without much servicing. I'm told these wrinkles I have are jewels of survivors. Also that they create character and depth. I hope so!

Ice...Lac Qui Parle Creek that runs through First Street was dammed up in the fall. When it froze solid, Jim Donaldson and his men workers cut it into blocks of ice. This we loved to watch at the first school house by the creek. Blocks of ice were hauled away, packed in sawdust, and sold to people and stores for their ice boxes, as there were no electric refrigerators at that time. Pupils who watched with me were Robert, Herbert, and Arthur Benner; Gladys McPeek; and Lottie Young. Some Gary people will remember these pupils.

Aprons...In the old days a long apron was the most popular and useful. It tied around the waist with a pocket on one side. If outside and you had no baskets along, you picked up the two bottom corners and it carried in eggs, chicks and vegetables from the garden or sticks of wood. Fancy aprons with embroidery were used for company serving. Little girls wore aprons called pinafores to protect their school or Sunday dresses. Seems no one wears aprons nowadays, so they're not welcomed as a gift.

From the files of the Gary Interstate from long ago----- Local news and ads 1919 era

Mrs. Earl Fierstine and children started for the home of her parents Thanksgiving morning with the intention of eating dinner there. However she was taken violently ill and was taken to the Canby hospital where an operation for appendicitis was performed. The lady is getting along nicely and will be able to return home soon.

If you want a Duroc boar with size and quality, I have them. Long, heavy boned, growthy fellows. Weight from 200 to 250 pounds. Invincible and Illustrator breeding. Henry Paulson, phone R5, Gary, SD.

Strayed---- from the school section three miles north of Gary about two weeks ago, one red steer, with holde in left ear; one red heifer with cut in right ear; one red and white cow, both ears cut. Phone information to Jensen Bros. Canby, Minnesota

Big Home Talent Play Soon---- Next Thursday night, May 1, 1919, the wonderful Musical Comedy, "The Princess of Poe, " will be produced at the opera house with sixty or more Gary young people in the show, under the direction of Miss Thelma Colde of Minneapolis. The play comes to us very highly recommended. Letters and telegrams have been received her from area towns. The play abounds in beautiful musical number, solos, and duets and has been received well in all areas.

NEWS ARTICLES BY Briana Hoffman, Coordinator for Regional Development for Deuel County

This week's article will focus on enlightening facts about Deuel County. It behooves us as citizens and stakeholders in our community to become aware of these facts. Equipped with this knowledge, we can better understand the dynamics of our region and begin to make sense of what lies ahead for our future. So, did you know?...

General Population

Compared to many other rural counties in South Dakota, Deuel County's population has been relatively stable in the last 15 years. The population in 1990 was 4,522 and the 2007 population estimate currently sits at 4,259, a 5.8% decrease over the last 18 years. Despite the slight population decrease, employment in Deuel County is steady.

Employment

Deuel County is unique among rural counties in the number of major employers it houses. There are 12 employers in Deuel County that employ between 30 and 200 employees each. Three to four employers of this size is typical in many other rural counties. Despite the number of employers, Deuel County experiences a net outflow of people leaving the county every day for work purposes. Around 700 people travel *out* of Deuel County for work every day, the majority going to Codington, Brookings, and Yellow Medicine Counties. At the same time, approximately 300 people travel *in* to Deuel County for work, the majority coming from the same counties. This leaves Deuel with a net loss of approximately 400 workers that leave the area for employment outside our county lines.

Deuel County's manufacturing industry has very strong employment rates as compared to the rest of the state. Approximately 22.6% of the jobs in Deuel County are within the manufacturing industry, ranking Deuel 4th in the state for manufacturing jobs. These jobs are vital to our economy and much of Deuel's vitality is a direct result of these exceptional businesses. That said, there is also significant opportunity within our market for small businesses growth and job diversification to incorporate jobs in other industries and of other skills sets and training.

Education

Our schools are performing well, and 81.9% adults in Deuel County over the age of 25 have a high school diploma, which ranks Deuel 29th of 66 counties in South Dakota. However, there is a disparity between adults with high school diplomas and those with Bachelors Degrees. Only

13.3% of the adults in Deuel over 25 years old have a Bachelors Degree thereby ranking Deuel County 51st of 66 counties in South Dakota. Deuel loses many students as they head off for post-secondary education. Increasing diversification in the job market would provide excellent opportunities to attract these once full-time residents back home.

Agriculture

Significant changes are also happening in agriculture. Approximately 30,000 acres of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land will come out of CRP in 2007 – 2008, with a very small percentage going back in.

Farms themselves are also changing. The average size of farms in Deuel County has increased in the last 15 years from 509 acres to 562 acres. The number of farms, however, has decreased from 690 in 1987 to the latest figure of 583 in 2002, and farm employment has declined by 54% in the last 25 years. Between the mass exodus of CRP land, increasing size of farms and decreasing number of farms, the face of agriculture in Deuel County is significantly changing.

So What Does This All Mean??

We look forward helping the people of Deuel County answer this question.

You are encouraged to voice your dreams and ideas for regional development in Deuel County. Please contact Briana Hoffman on 605-881-2036 or briana.hoffman@rlcenter.net.

*All statistics sourced from STATS Indiana.

STATS Indiana (May 9, 2008). *USA Counties IN Profile*. Retrieved June 23, 2008.
http://www.stats.indiana.edu/uspr/a/us_profile_frame.html?S46?C000.

As previously announced, I am now serving as Coordinator for Regional Development for Deuel County, a regional partnership involving the City of Gary, Deuel County, the City of Clear Lake, and several area businesses along with the Rural Learning Center (Howard, SD) to staff this position. This is an exciting opportunity and I look forward to working with many of you.

Beginning in October 2007, the Rural Learning Center conducted a series of interviews with citizens, businesses, and community leaders. The interviews are still ongoing and over 100 people have been interviewed to date. From these interviews two general frameworks for community development have been revealed: major development trends, and a possible framework for action in Deuel County.

Deuel County Major Development Trends

The following major regional development trends in Deuel County have been identified as follows: wind farms, confined animal feeding operations (CAFO's), housing development beyond city limits, water, and recreation. Extensive exploration is currently being conducted into each of these five areas as part of a visioning process to determine how Deuel County's future might develop.

Business Development, Housing, & Place: A Possible Framework for Action

While the interviews, conversations and dialogues covered a wide range of topics and ideas, many of the thoughts expressed can be grouped under three broad headings: business development, housing, and place (quality of life). Typically, residents referred to these topics in isolation without identifying the connections between them. The Rural Learning Center's research reveals that *more people are making decisions about where to live based on some combination of the three*. Obviously, the unique needs and interest of families and/or individuals

determine the importance of each. However we are seeing that “place” is becoming an increasingly significant consideration.

You are encouraged to voice your dreams and ideas for regional community development across Deuel County. Please contact Briana Hoffman on 605-881-2036 or briana.hoffman@rlcenter.net. Please continue to look in this section for more updates. It is our goal to provide a community development updates every two weeks.

Up coming events:

Unveiling of “**Welcome to Gary**” sign by the Catholic Church will be 1:00 Sunday July 6 after the All School Reunion

“**Lovers Lane**” walking trail. Do you remember where that would be? Would you care to share your thoughts?