

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. March 2009 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 City Council is the first Monday of the month @ 7:30 p.m.

Gary Historical Association Sunday, March 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:



Upper left shows on going digging of Lake Elsie. Upper right shows ceiling supports in the auditorium are moved to the outside walls instead of in the middle. The picture at the lower left shows the continued work of restoring



the woodwork, removing the old finish and preparing for the new. The main plumbing is done in the boy's dorm. The showers are on site and ready to install. On last check, the walls are also being installed in the boy's dorm. Sheetrock is being installed in the girl's dorm upper level where there will be offices and a conference room.

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?

Down Memory Lane

By

Bernice Jensen

Last month I identified the houses that are no longer a part of Gary on the West side of Main Street. This month I will identify the vacant lots on the east side of Main Street. Starting at the North end of Summit Street we will go south. The first vacant lot on the east and to my left is the house where the Stangland family lived. This was the only family that I remember living there. I wish I knew who built it. The next house on the corner was a two story frame home. Many people lived there. I believe it was a Kenyon home. Years ago Barney and Lena Hunt lived in the home, also Tom Mc Lains, and the last people I remember living there was the Kenny Theisen family. Across the street on the corner was a small frame one story house. Cecilia Kenyon and her sister Barbara and husband lived there. The ladies were pleasant and charming. Cecelia was a bookkeeper in the office of the State School for the Blind. Now we will go over to Laura Street. At the north end of the street stood a small one story house built by Mr. and Mrs. Jim Wurtz. It was sold in the last ten years to Clark Dessler. Across the road on the Minnesota side stood a farm home owned and built by Barney and Frances Felsheim. They had a son George who built a filling station on the south west corner of the farm. There was a station and a small home that are no longer there. Several families operated the station. The last family was the Gerald and Rose Mason family. They left many of us with good memories. Other owners were Joe and Lil Miester. They came from Detroit and went back. They too were good business people as well as the Herbie Meyer family. Across the road stood the Donaldson family home; Jim and Agnes and their son and two daughters lived there. They also ran a filling station and Jim had the most beautiful garden and flowers. Agnes was an active lady in the community. Jim was a boxer and taught his son to box. Visiting with Agnes was so interesting, telling me of her family coming to this country. These families were in Minnesota but were a real part of Gary. Now we will go up the hill as we usually address the part of town we are talking about. We turn left on Main Avenue on the right side of the street where Gate City Senior Citizens building now stands, was a small frame home. They only people I remember living there was Julius Bekaert. They moved to Gary when they retired. They had several children, with Albert and Don living in Gary. Don passed away a few years ago and Albert lives in the Minnesota side. On the left side of the street was a two story home. The only family I recall living there was Albert and Anne Larson. Annie was a mid wife and many babies were born in that home. After their passing, Ed and Lavonne Lorenzen and their family lived there for many years. To my knowledge no other family lived there. It was taken down and the Schmachers purchased it. The next house beside the Lorenzen home going east was a small frame one story house that I remember my parents talking about Bob Drew and his family living in the home. Bob was the music teacher in the public school and School for the Blind. Dr. and Effie Gross and son Dennis lived in the home. Doc was the dentist and brought a good business to Gary. Elsie loved to entertain and was a good hostess. Their son Dennis was a handsome little fellow and was a very busy little man. I remember when he climbed the water tower to the platform and waved at the people below. I was told about this. John Hiney brought him down. It was a grand reunion between Dennis and his parents.

After the Gross family, Pat and Mary Fitzpatrick purchased and lived in the home. After Pat's death, Mary moved to Sioux Falls to live with her son Joseph. Ida Johnson purchased the home and Ida rented it to Sophia Kenyon and her brother while she assisted in the care of Mary Fitzpatrick in Sioux Falls at the Joe Fitzpatrick home. After Mary's death, Ida moved back to her home and lived there until she moved to the Nursing home in Canby. Lars Johnson purchased the house and Lars lived there until it burned down.

I believe this is the end of the vacant lots that were at one time home to many families. Some of the older homes are no longer standing, but there are many older homes that have been renovated and are looking great. Many new homes have been built in Gary. Gary is a remarkable small town and the Former State School for the Blind is coming back to be even more beautiful than I remember it to be. It is great to call Gary my home town.

PS Harry Helmbolt had a stucco house where Angel built her home north of the City.

If you have any knowledge of the original owners or builders of a home in town, please contact Roger or Shar Baer at 272-2207 or email rstbaer@itctel.com. Identifying these homes is only what I remember and what my parents and their friends talked about. I liked to listen to stories from my parents generation. If you have any comments, please let me know.

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

REMOVING SILT FROM LAKE ELSIE

From the Gary Interstate 1937

The high water occasioned by the heavy downpour two weeks ago Friday caused some erosion at the west edge of the dam at Lake Elsie Park in Gary and so the dam gate was removed and the lake emptied.

This emptying of the lake has made visible the amount of mud and silt that had accumulated from the numerous spring floods

Acting under the suggestion and supervision of Supt. Vincent Linn, a cleanup bee has been inaugurated by a number of men in town and today should see most every firm in Gary represented at the lake throwing out the dried mud cakes. Each firm is either contributing cash or a man today, Friday, or Saturday, to help with the work. Dey Rupe circulated a pledge sheet listing the contributions

Four teams have been arranged for to haul the loads away. Some of this mud will be used to fill on some low spots along a street and some of it may be placed alongside the driveway at the dam to widen the passageway for cars.

Present plans are to get this silt removed and a gravel bottom reached by Saturday so that the dam can be closed and that the water level will be sufficient Sunday to permit bathing.

All persons who feel they can lend a hand for a few hours are welcome indeed to give this move a boost and should visit the lake tomorrow.

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?

MEMORIES FROM THE HEART

By Betty Schaefer McCormick

A few weeks ago our pastor's sermon was on the respect that teenagers and the elderly must have for one another. It definitely brought back memories of my childhood in Gary. There were so many elderly people who were kind and looked out for me. I tried to do the same. Each night after school I would make the rounds to see how the elderly neighbors were managing.

Sometimes, they needed their mail, maybe a few groceries, or to help pick up things around their house. Then other times, we would sit and have coffee and cookies together. Some of the people who come to mind are the John Kennedys, Mrs. Schweinfert and Clara Frank, Mrs. Stefferud, Mrs. McKey, John and Mary Hunt, my Uncle Hank and Aunt Neva. These people always had the best homemade sugar cookies, it was a real treat.

Some of the people I just enjoyed talking to, Mrs. Webber, Mrs. Marsch, Mrs. Tietjen, Mrs. Denekamp, she always had the beautiful white laundry on the line, Mr. and Mrs. Miottel. I would pop my head into the stores and say hello to Fannie Harkins, Mr. and Mrs. Van, sometimes stop and say hello to Ethel Bartels. I thoroughly enjoyed Ethel's home. It was so comfy and seemed so plush and she loved to visit. It was so sad to see that her home had been torn down. I enjoyed going into the creamery and watching the butter being made, and sometimes Mr. Sanden would let me have a taste of it.

The store owners were all so friendly. I would collect pop bottles and sell them. I think if I remember correctly, I would receive one or two cents per bottle. So if I had five to ten bottles that bought a treat for me and my Mom and Dad.

Later on when I was a teenager, I was offered jobs at Van's Variety, Heaton Drug Store and Dode's Café I was most grateful, because now I could help purchase my own clothes and have spending money. It was a great experience. I still am grateful for those days. This past summer we visited the Cozi Museum in Columbus, Ohio. They had the full set up of an old soda fountain and drug store. It brought back so many memories. I went behind the counters and could just imagine making the sundaes, the malts and mixing the drinks. My favorite was the cherry coke and sometimes the chocolate, cherry coke with a pack of salted peanuts put on top.

Later in high school, Mary Gordon and Mrs. Overgard would hire me to do ironing and cleaning house. It was always fun because we did the work together and had really good visits. Then during the winter I would help with cooking and serving food for their holiday guests. I still remember the Lutefisk dinners Mrs. Gordon would arrange.

When I go to work I enjoy the teenagers so much. They enjoy talking to me and I enjoy hearing about them and their studies, where they plan to go to school, and their adventures. They enjoy hearing what I did as a teenager. I know I probably appear to be a relic to them, but we have some wonderful conversations.

Jim and I enjoy the kids in the neighborhood. I like to read the local newspapers so we can see who is doing what and what awards or events they may be in. It is important to congratulate them and ask them about their school and what they are doing.

This week at church we said goodbye for the second time to a young man going off to Baghdad. We pray for his safe return and thank him for his duty of service to our country and await his safe return next year. I remember my Dad so worried about the young boys going off to Viet Nam and praying for their return. Of course, we know one of our home boys did not return, Richard Kloos, one of the nicest and most enjoyable kids in Gary High School. It was a sad day when we learned he had been killed. When we visited the Viet Nam Memorial in Washington, DC, it was very important for me to look up his name.

As I am typing this, I have left out too many wonderful people in Gary. I believe everyone who lived in Gary when I was growing up was a wonderful person and has shared something with me,

maybe a quick conversation, a cup of coffee, a word of advice or a compliment. When I return to visit, everyone in Gary is so wonderful. The town has been so blessed to have such wonderful people live there.

My children always say, "You and Dad must know everyone". You talk to everybody". "Yes," we respond, we pretty much do or we knew someone in their family. As a person gets older, those are wonderful memories to have. Sometimes, I visualize the streets I walked and the people who lived in the houses and I think how wonderful it would be just to touch base with them for a few minutes and let them know a bit about my life. I think they would enjoy knowing. But then again, as my husband says, they are all watching over us in heaven and that is very reassuring. So in conclusion, I am glad I took the time to say hello and get to know these wonderful elderly people. They had so many experiences, so good and not so good, but they were always willing to share their thoughts. Some were good story tellers and that is important to be able to tell a good story.

When I went away to college, I saw that an elderly lady lived in a big old house next door to me. She barely went outside. One day after school I walked over and knocked on her door. I told her who I was and asked if she needed anything. She invited me in and we talked for a bit. She prepared tea for us to share. She was very much into health foods. I learned she was a retired Army Nurse from World War I. What wonderful stories she had to tell. I would go over every night after school and we would visit. She advised me to use olive oil when I went into the sun as I was so blonde. She said that is what she used during the war to prevent sunburn. I still use olive oil when I go into the sun. I moved away but I have always remembered her in my heart. She was a very special lady, mother, veteran and friend.

So the sermon brought back many memories and I am so happy I have those memories and also grateful for all the wonderful people who made them possible.

Some of the Businesses in Gary in prior years

Throughout most of the years, Gary has had a hospital, several doctors, nurses and a midwife. In more recent years, the community was served by Dr. Pinard as a medical doctor, Sr. Gross, as a dentist, and Dr. Albert Larson as a veterinarian. Several assisted Dr. Pinard, as a midwife, including Mabel Wells and Annie Larson.

Dr. Gross, dentist, was assisted by Ethel Bartels. Dr Gross' office was located on the west side of Coteau Street, now the site of the home of Mrs. Gertrude Baer. Dr. Pinard's office was located in his home, now the home of Gene and Betty Steele.

Fires have destroyed several elevators; the Atlas and Farmers' are a few of the first elevator companies in Gary. Elevators were first known as the flat houses and warehouses to the early Pioneers. The Interstate records in 1886 that the farmer's warehouse to be built near depot on south side of track. Marshall Mill Company changed their flat warehouse into an elevator in 1898. Julius Palmer was manager. In 1900, farmer's elevator and Mill co. was organized under the buymanship of James Pettijohn.

In 1906 a new flour and coal shed was being built by Farmers Elevator. Maybe the most remarkable farmer's related industry in early Gary was the Dakota State Roller Mills. It began as a Gary grist mill in 1887, at what is now the residence of Clyde Helmbolt. White Roe patent flour was shipped from Gary's Roller mill primarily to the East. In 1887, another carload of Gary's roller mills flour was shipped to Philadelphia. Early settlers from Madison, MN remember coming to Gary with oxen carts to get their supply of flour. A new name, Dakota State Roller Mill was added in 1889. An old cream station stood beside the mill, which was

rented in 1907 to F. E. Cadwell and Son for a feed mill and store. In 1911, Cadwell asked for a survey of the corner around the mill property. It is believed the mill closed at this time. Cadwell erected a new house on the old flour mill site. In the basement of the Helmbolt home the joists are still there, of the original mill. G. R. Cadwell opened the Atlas Elevator.

Sexaur Company is the present owner of the elevator. Four grain storage bins, complete the elevator scene along the north side of the railroad tracks. This elevator is east of the original plot. James Cole was manager, when Elmer Fritz started working at the elevator in 1953.

In August of 1995, the Sexaur Elevator was sold to Jim Thorpe and his sons, Terry and Nathan. It is now named Gary Grain, Incorporated. Presently, it is a grain drying and storage facility for each of their farm operations.

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?

Crabby Old Man

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in North Platte, Nebraska, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value.

Later, when the nurses were going through his meager possessions, they found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital. One nurse took her copy to Missouri. The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas edition of the News Magazine of the St. Louis Association for Mental Health.

A slide presentation has also been made based on his simple, but eloquent, poem. And this little old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem winging across the Internet.

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## Crabby Old Man

What do you see nurses? . . What do you see?  
What are you thinking . . . . when you're looking at me?  
A crabby old man, . . not very wise,  
Uncertain of habit . . . . with faraway eyes?

Who dribbles his food . . . . . and makes no reply  
When you say in a loud voice . . 'I do wish you'd try!'  
Who seems not to notice . . . the things that you do.  
And forever is losing . . . . . A sock or shoe?

Who, resisting or not . . . . . lets you do as you will,  
With bathing and feeding . . . . . The long day to fill?  
Is that what you're thinking? . . . Is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes, nurse . . . . you're not looking at me.

I'll tell you who I am, . . . . . as I sit here so still,  
As I do at your bidding, . . . . as I eat at your will  
I'm a small child of Ten . . . . with a father and mother,  
Brothers and sisters . . . . . who love one another

A young boy of Sixteen . . with wings on his feet

Dreaming that soon now . . . . a lover he'll meet.  
A groom soon at Twenty. . . . .My heart gives a leap.  
Remembering the vows . . . . . that I promised to keep.

At Twenty-Five, now . . . . . I have young of my own.  
Who need me to guide . . . . And a secure happy home.  
A man of Thirty . . . . . My young now grown fast,  
Bound to each other . . . . . With ties that should last.

At Forty, my young sons . . have grown and are gone,  
But my woman's beside me . . . . . to see I don't mourn.  
At Fifty, once more, . Babies play 'round my knee,  
Again, we know children . . . . . My loved one and me .

Dark days are upon me . . My wife is now dead.  
I look at the future . . . . . I shudder with dread.  
For my young are all rearing . . . . . young of their own.  
And I think of the years . . And the love that I've known.

I'm now an old man . . . . . and nature is cruel.  
Tis jest to make old age. . . . . look like a fool.  
The body, it crumbles . . . . . grace and vigor depart.  
There is now a stone . . . . . where I once had a heart.

But inside this old carcass . . A young guy still dwells,  
And now and again . . . . . my battered heart swells  
I remember the joys . . . . . I remember the pain.  
And I'm loving and living . . . . . life over again.

I think of the years . all too few . . . . . gone too fast.  
And accept the stark fact . . . . . that nothing can last.  
So open your eyes, people . . . . . open and see..  
Not a crabby old man Look closer . . see . . . . ME!!

Remember this poem when you next meet an older person who you might  
brush aside without looking at the young soul within . .

We will all, one day, be there, too!

## **In Retrospect**

By Buck Asher

The present plans of the Gary City Council call for the tearing down and removal of the old Gary School building on the hill. For many years it has stood as a familiar landmark and pleasant reminder of younger days for many who attended school there. The west half of the building was completed during the fall and early winter of 1904. Classes were first held in the new building on Thursday morning January 5, 1904. The first head of the school was J.C. Lindsey. Mrs. J.C. Lindsey and Miss Flora Spicer were the first teachers. It is interesting to note that materials for the new building cost \$2,000.00. F.H. Greene was the successful bidder. Items found in the Interstate give this information. The first telephone was installed October 5, 1905. September 6, 1907 the public school opened enrollment. As yet high school attendance is small

but growing. This year we added the junior year and next year we hope to add the senior year and graduate our first class. The high school enrollment was 22 and the total was 132 in 1907. By 1912-1913 there were five students in the ninth grade, one in the tenth, three in the eleventh, and one in the twelfth. The term of school was nine months. The library boasted 581 volumes. The state law required the board to add 36 new books during the year. A football team was organized in the high school.

In 1918 it was decided to enlarge the school building. The east half including the old gym, class room and assembly room was added. In the special election to bond the district for \$25000 for improvements and pay off indebtedness passed a vote of 116 to 21 against.

Today this amount of money would not be enough to build any type of structure.

Through man ears the Gary School building has resisted many of the ravages of time. Evidently it was well made. Many young people received excellent educations and left as graduates entering colleges, universities and other life activities. Later they became outstanding workers in their chosen careers. The old building will be sadly missed by many of the Alumni. They'll miss it especially when attending school reunions.

Better than dismantling and disposing of the remains, wouldn't it be feasible to use the cost in repairing the exterior and let it remain as a pleasant old landmark??

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

### **Gary Interstate Sept. 21, 1888**

A Clear Lake horse entered in the farmers race at the fair Wednesday afternoon fell on the east side of the track and broke his neck. He probably did not like the idea of getting beaten on a Gary track by a Gary horse, hence committed suicide to escape disgrace.

## **March**

It soon will be the first of March, that time of year we dread,  
We do not know the weather then, and only guess instead.

The first of month may usher in, like a little gentle lamb,  
Or with a deafening lions roar, as tumbling over a dam.

It is time when folks will move, to their new homes from their old,  
Some will have to rent again, and some their homes have sold.

Generally the snow is deep, and ice upon the ground,  
Drifting snow will block the roads, and hard to get around.

We are thankful for the moisture, that the crops will need next spring,  
And help the land and pastures and lots of satisfaction bring.

So soon it will be springtime, and our birds return once more,  
The trees will leaf and flowers bloom, and all beauty will restore.

Marietta Thomas



**Gary Historical Association  
Newsletter from the President**

Each month there are some new things to report about the former School for the Blind. I was also thinking that there are only about 108 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. **Sales tax is one of the easiest taxes to pay** as it is a pay as you go tax. A sales tax is a great way to finance our city government and the economic development group of this community. Our City Council should be pushing for this tax. It is certainly better than paying higher real estate taxes. And of course the best thing is that visitors will also help pay our taxes. 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. I have had the pleasure of getting to know a former student of the Former School for the Blind. His name is Glen Renville. His great grandfather was Chief Gabriel Renville. Some of his information is below.



**Gabriel Renville  
1824-1892**

Gabriel Renville, head chief of the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux, served as chief of scouts with General Sibley's 1863-1865 expedition against the hostile Sioux.

The War Department appointed Renville as head chief of the Sisseton-Wahpeton tribe in 1866. The following year, after Lake Traverse Reservation was established, his people elected him head chief for life. At Fort Wadsworth, he became a diligent farmer as well as chief of scouts.

Renville helped his people make the transition to reservation living without forsaking all cultural traditions. Indians and non-Indians alike respected him for his great mental force and integrity

## Gabriel Renville (ca. 1824-1892)

Gabriel Renville was born on the shores of Big Stone Lake in South Dakota in 1824. His father was a French/Sisseton Dakota fur trader. His mother was of Dakota and British ancestry. Renville served as chief of scouts with General Sibley's expedition against the hostile Sioux from 1863-1865. In 1866, the war department appointed Renville as head chief of the Sisseton-Wahpeton tribe. The following year, after Lake Traverse Reservation was established, his people elected him head chief for life. At Fort Wadsworth, he became a diligent farmer as well as chief of scouts.

Renville helped his people make the transition to reservation living without forsaking all cultural traditions. Indians and non-Indians alike respected him for his great mental force and integrity. He led his people until his death in 1892.

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*Source: Volume 10 Number 4 of South Dakota History, the Journal of the South Dakota State Historical Society.*

*Photo courtesy of the South Dakota State Historical Society.*

Invitations for the **All School Reunion** will be going out a little later this year than usual. The Transition team is working on the plans for the occasion. We can tell you that it will be held on July 5, 2009 in the Sundance ballroom, in Woodbury Hall (girl's dorm). Starting time will be approximately 11:00 a.m. sign in and will probably go till about 2:00 p.m. There will possibly be a tour of the complex after the reunion. We also hope to have the museum complex open for your enjoyment.



These two appliances are still at the kitchen area of the administration building. From what we hear, they will be saved.