

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

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WELCOME TO THE GARY INTERSTATE

A briskness is in the air! It seems that summer is now behind us but fall is a time of beauty! All the flowers are at their best. The colors are absolutely radiant. The trees give a sigh to the lower temperatures as do a lot of us that enjoy cooler weather. The leaves are dancing in the wind and gathering on the ground and around the buildings as if they were playing a game. Soon, we will be seeing everyone raking lawns and beautifying their property as best they can before winter sets in. A great time for many to plant extra crocus, daffodils, tulips and many other perennials that will bring the newness of spring as they peak through the coolness of the ground and even a light snow. Soon the blossoms will come and nod in the cool spring breeze. How nature can decide when the sleeping perennials can come awake and sprout through the snow is a miracle in itself. All we have to do is enjoy.

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

A council meeting will be held, October 2, at 7:30pm in the City Hall in Gary, S.D. Anyone can attend these meetings. The council would invite any spectator. Anyone wishing to have any citizen input at these meetings is urged to contact any council member or City Hall so you can be incorporated into their agenda.

Mayor of the City of Gary is Jeff Engesser. Finance Officer is Pat Denelsbeck.

Council members are: Marion Denekamp, John Jenson, Scott Moeller, Sharon Kloos, Harold Kenyon, and Clark Dessler.

A city council is an authoritative body of a municipality with administrative and legislative power, composed of members elected by the citizens.

They all take an oath to uphold the law and operate the city for the well being of the citizens of the city.

A notice is posted on the door of the City Hall with the agenda of the meeting to be held, no less than 24 hours before a meeting. It is the law. Anyone interested in knowing what is on the agenda may go and read it if they wish.

Remember, being involved makes you a part of the community.

BUFFALO SUPPER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 3:30 – 6:30
GARY LEGION HALL

THE OLDEST HOUSE IN GARY

I have been trying to research the oldest home in Gary. As I read all the old history of Gary and the surrounding area, I am finding that where all the early settlers decided to squat and get a title for their homestead land, was on both sides of the river. By building by a river, they already had the shelter of trees and water for their animals and themselves.

There was 263 acres of land that was approved and was granted by the Act of Congress and approved, March 3, 1857. It was Arthur Jacobi, a surveyor, that was requested by the Winona and St. Peter Railroad Company a corporation that was duly organized and doing business under the Laws of the State of Minnesota and the Territory of Dakota did on and prior to the 15th day of August, 1876, surveyed and staked out lots, blocks, streets and alleys.



By looking at several deeds so far, the home where Erma Hundertmark lives and where Harry Meyer lived dates back to the earliest time of Gary's history. Hundertmark's was filed, August 21, 1900. Meyer's filed, December 23, 1880. The Meyer home as it was last known as was a



home that Hundertmark had also lived in. The home was also the home of Ben M. Benson.

Hopefully, this will spur people on in the town of Gary to look at their abstracts and see just when their plot of land was surveyed, sold and filed to the owner of the property. Please let me know and I will do an in depth research on it and a story.

BEN M. BENSON, BURNED IN HOME

Ben Benson, known as Big Ben, lived alone in a cottage located across the creek in the west part of Gary. It is reported to be the same house in which he was born, December 2, 1888. He was baptized and confirmed of the Lutheran faith.

He was the only son of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Benson, both of whom had preceded him in death. Benson was survived by two sisters: Mrs. William (Selma) Tietjen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota and Mrs. Gertrude King of Brainard, Minnesota. Two half sisters: Mrs. Thea Thronson of Brodhead, Wisconsin and Sofia Benson of California.

Ben Benson was a large, in stature, man and had served as a Drayman since he was 16 years of age. He had become quite proficient in moving and handling of heavier items of freight, such as machinery, etc, up until the last years when arthritis came to visit him and stayed in his leg and knee.

During Big Bens life as a Drayman, he not only hauled milk, cream, eggs, chickens, turkeys, etc., with his Model T. Truck to the train to take to a place to be sold, he also directed traffic on Wednesday and Saturday nights near the train depot when the train approached town.

Benson was an active member of the Gary Volunteer Fire Department. As he enrolled on January 6, 1915, he was also voted an honorary membership. Big Ben enjoyed children and delighted in giving them a treat of candy, especially on his birthday. He was also the proud driver of the vehicle that brought Santa Claus and all the bags of candy that was to be given out to the children who came to tell Santa their secret wishes of what they would like Santa to bring to them at Christmas time.

The Gary community was so saddened when they had heard of the discovery of Big Ben Benson, a Gary bachelor, a Drayman and a friend to all in and around the community, dead at his cottage. Will Rieger, a neighbor of Big Ben Benson, Marshal Carl Schmahl and Mayor Mathews visited the house of Big Ben and eventually discovered Benson's body, badly burned, lying on an iron bed of which most of the bedding had been consumed by fire. It appeared that Big Ben had suffocated and become burned until the fire died out from lack of oxygen. The room was small, the door and window were closed with the shade pulled down. He was dressed in his street clothes.

Pallbearers were: Adolph Sanden, Edmund Weidenbach, J. M. Mortensen, John A. Nilsson, Frank E. Kelsey, and J. Elbridge Kenyon, all of Gary. Interment was made at the Grand View Cemetery beside the graves of his parents. Blessed be his memory.

DID YOU KNOW?? Was Big Ben a clock??

This is some of the history of Big Ben, cast at Whitechapel Foundry.

At nine feet in diameter, 7' 6" high and weighing in at 13 tons, 10 cwts, 3 qtrs, 15 lbs (13,760 kg), the hour bell of the Great Clock of Westminster---known world wide as 'Big Ben'---is the most famous bell ever cast at Whitechapel.

William T. Kimber was responsible for casting the bell. Big Ben was cast on Saturday the 10th day of April, 1858. Its story begins more than two decades earlier.

In 1844, Parliament decided that the new buildings for the Houses of Parliament should incorporate a tower and clock. The commission for this work was awarded to the architect, Charles Barry, who initially invited just one clockmaker to produce a design and quotation. The rest of the trade objected so finally, the Astronomer Royal, George Airy was appointed to draft a specification for the clock. One of his requirements was that: The first stroke of the hour was to strike the time correctly to within one second per day and furthermore that it should telegraph its performance twice a day to Greenwich Observatory, where the record would be kept.

Most clockmakers considered such accuracy unattainable for a large tower clock driving striking mechanisms and heavy hands exposed to wind and weather and lobbied for a lesser specification to be adhered to.

Due to this impasse, Parliament appointed Barrister Edmund Beckett Denison, later called Sir Edmund Beckett, as co-referee with George Airy. The first Baron Grimthorpe, was a difficult man. He was described by one writer as: "Zealous but unpopular, self-accredited expert on clocks, locks, bells, buildings as well as many branches of law."

In 1851, Denison came up with a design. It was built and completed in 1854. The tower wasn't ready until 1859, so they tested the clock for five years. This clock is believed to be now in use as the church clock at St. Dunstan's at Cranbrook in Kent.

Next came the bells and Sir Charles Barry had specified a 14 ton hour bell. It was the largest bell that was cast in Britain.

Denison insisted on his own design for the shape of the bell as well as his own recipe for the bell metal. It was eventually made but oversized at 16 tons by John Warner and Sons at Stockton-on-Tees on August 6, 1856. The bell cracked and was irreparable while under the test in the Palace Yard at Westminster. It was then that Denison who now had QC after his name, turned to Whitechapel Foundry.

George Mears, then the master bell founder and owner of the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, undertook the casting.

Metal from the first bell that had cracked, was broken up and used. It took three furnaces to melt the metal and the mould was heated all day before the actual casting. It took 20 minutes to fill the mould with molten metal and 20 days for the metal to solidify and cool. After the bell had been tested by Mears, Denison approved it before it left the foundry.

Transporting the bell the few miles from the foundry to the Houses of Parliament was a major event. Traffic stopped as the bell rode on the trolley drawn by 16 brightly beribboned horses and made its way over the London Bridge, along Borough Road and over Westminster Bridge. The streets had been decorated for the occasion and the enthusiastic crowds cheered the bell along the route.

The bells of the Great Clock of the Westminster rang across London for the first time on the 31st of May, 1859.

The Parliament was sitting to decide on a suitable name for the great hour bell. There were many suggestions being made. Chief Lord of the Woods & Forests, Sir Benjamin Hall, a large and ponderous man, known affectionately in the House as 'Big Ben', rose and gave an impressively long speech on the subject. When at the end of this oratorical speech, Sir Benjamin sank back into his seat. The whispers went throughout the house and heads nodded as the chamber shouted out, "Why not call him Big Ben and be done with it?"

The House erupted in bursts of laughter; 'Big Ben' had been named.

This is the most commonly known and accepted story to be written but not legally documented.

'Big Ben' is the largest bell at Whitechapel. Visitors to the foundry pass through a full size profile of the bell that frames the main entrance as they enter the building. The original moulding gauge was used as the mould to cast 'Big Ben' and it hangs on the wall end of the foundry above the furnaces to this very day.

The actual facts in this story was from the History of Big Ben.

DID YOU KNOW

In the July 16, 1959 issue of the Gary Interstate, A.P.4, John Denekamp, son of Mr. and Mrs Henry Denekamp, of Gary and Lynn Ulven, son of Mr. and Mrs George Ulven, of Clear Lake, were pleasantly surprised when they met recently in Osan Air force Base in Korea, where Lynn is stationed. John is stationed with the U.S. Army in Northern Korea. The two boys were schoolmates in the Gary Public School when Lynn's mother was a teacher.

AWESOME LADIES OF GARY

The ladies of the United Methodist Church of Gary, S.D., should be very proud of themselves. They spent every Wednesday for a year making quilts to be taken to the Ingathering. This was the 24th annual Ingathering for World Hunger that they have participated in. The amount of money that was made was in the thousands. Watch for their story and picture next month and the total amount will be revealed.

GRANDVIEW CEMETERY SIGN PROJECT

To: Gary's alumni, citizens, friends, neighbors and interested parties.

The purpose of this project is to identify and beautify the entrance to the Grandview Cemetery with an attractive sign.

Driving by, one has no idea that this is Grandview Cemetery unless you are familiar with Gary's cemetery site. At present, there is no identification for Grandview at any cemetery entrance.

The objective is to have a sign or other form of identification in place at the cemetery entrance in the spring of 2007. As an example, possibly considering an engraved stone similar to the "Welcome to Clear Lake" stone at Clear Lake, SD.

Suggestions and ideas are welcome to make this an eye-appealing and an adorning project.

Donations may be sent to: Cemetery Sign Fund, P.O. Box 127, Gary, SD 57237

Thank you for your interest and donation.

Grandview Cemetery – Gary City Council

WHEN YOU WISH UPON A STAR

The Extreme Makeover: Home Edition is a national television show. To the Kevin and Nila Thibodeau family came a big surprise when they were called by the show's designer and carpenter, Ty Pennington and told that they and their brand new home would be featured on the program shown on ABC-TV.

Their daughter Siehera, 12 years of age and the oldest of three children, underwent her fourth open heart surgery. Even though the surgeries left her somewhat weak, her brothers, Kevin Jr, age 10 and Kyle, age seven are happy to have her home again. From beginning of demolishing to end, a beautiful new home, seven days with over 6,000 volunteers and many businesses were on hand to help the crews build and beat the seven day deadline while the Thibodeau family were guests of the ABC show in New York. The show will air on the National ABC-TV television, Sunday, October 29 at 7pm. Congratulations and best wishes to the whole family and especially Siehera.

DATES TO REMEMBER

!!! REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 7 !!!

Monday, October 2 at 7:30 pm, will be the council meeting at City Hall in Gary, SD.
Everyone interested is urged and welcome to attend!

SPECIAL AWARD

The Al Neuharth Awards Special will be held at the Knudson Theatre at the USD Campus (Fine Arts Center), Thursday, October 5th from 7pm to 8:30pm. If you cannot attend, it will be broadcast on S.D. Public Broadcasting at 7:00pm, central time. The Al Neuharth Award will be presented to the veteran CBS newsmen, Bob Schieffer, for the Excellence in the Media Award. Schieffer has covered news from Washington DC for over 30 years and has hosted CBS News, 'Face The Nation' since 1991.

Wednesday, October 18th at 2:00 pm, will be a Diabetes Support Group meeting at the Sioux Valley Canby Campus Service Building—Wellness Center in Conference Room F. The topic will be, 'Blood Sugar Monitoring---Pattern Control'. For more information, call: 507-223-7277, ext 264, Jane Simonton.

The Diabetes Support Group is open to all Type 1 and Type 2 Diabetics, anyone with a related diagnosis (pre-diabetes, metabolic syndrome) and their families.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month is October. The Sioux Valley Canby Campus Communications Service Excellence Team will be selling pink M & Ms to raise money for Breast Cancer. Selling will be from 9am to 3pm on October 5th and 6th in the Clinic Waiting area, Canby, Minn.

The Sioux Valley Canby Campus Auxiliary of Canby, Minn., will be hosting an event at the elementary school, similar to a women's wellness fair. Radiology will be hosting booths on bone density and mammography. For more information, call: 507-223-7277 Ext 218, Peggy Roe or Ext. 169 Sue Schanning.

The Zoar Mission Quilt and Craft Auction and Bake Sale will be held, Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Zoar Church.

The Gary Library is open on Tuesdays from 10:30am to 6:00pm and Fridays from 3:30pm to 8:00pm.

AA Meetings will be held every Tuesday at the City Municipal building in Clear Lake, 8:00pm.

A LOCAL POET



Marietta (Washburn) Thomas was born in Dakota Territory on April 11, 1886 to Henry Theodore and Emma (Crittenden) Washburn.

As a young girl Marietta and the Washburn family made many trips by train to Gary for celebrations and stayed over night at the Herrick Hotel.

In 1910 a young man by the name of Charles Thomas moved near the Washburn farm and after a few buggy rides and apple pies from Marietta, their wedding took place in her home. They

moved many times and their last home was in Gary, much to Marietta's pleasure.

From her home in Gary of 33 years, Marietta wrote many articles and poems about nature and her "town".

The following is a poem that goes along with what our writer wrote on the first page.

AUTUMN

The summer days are all but gone,
and Autumn time is creeping fast.

And 'tis the wish of everyone
those wonder days could only last.

The cottonwoods are dressed in gold

And her maple in her red

The willow soon with naked boughs,
And the leaves will rustle to one's tread.

The goldenrod too soon will die;

The wild aster fade away,

The meadow lark no more will sing

At dawn of the coming day.

The wild Geese will gather in a flock;

The ducks will join them, too.

The robins have left their empty nests

And the prairie bids are few.

So summer's gone and autumn's here

On this prairie vast and lone,

And we may be proud to claim

That Gary is our very own.

-Mrs. Marietta Thomas

Down Memory Lane by Bernice Jensen



Dear Friends,

Today we will visit the Herrick Hotel. The hotel stood where the Legion Hall now stands. I have no memory of the hotel; only as a building no longer used as a hotel.

When I returned and moved back to my home town, it was a great feeling. My parents had passed on before I moved to Montevideo and my sibling no longer lived in the area and my aunts and uncles had passed away. I did not have information from the book that I was writing for my family. I feel that Gary has so much history. My thoughts went to Alice (Larson) Knopp as the Herrick Hotel was one building that I did not have much knowledge about.

Alice was happy to share her memories with me. Her mother was the kitchen manager, head cook and a great pastry chef with a simple but efficient kitchen. Her specialty was Lemon Meringue pie. Alice's mother prepared meals for state dignitaries. Visitors came from all over Minnesota, South Dakota, and Iowa. Alice was the dining hostess and the dining room had to be kept in the very best of care. The groups of people that visited to attend the conventions were given so much attention. Their dinner request was called in before arrival time. Roast beef, T-bone steak, and fried oysters were a great hit along with the potato vegetable and waldorf salad were popular items on the menu.

After dinner the guests would gather in the ball room for an evening of dancing to live music. Alice mentioned some of the bands that were popular. One band went on to be recognized nationally. I wonder if it was Lawrence Welk? Alice would look over the upstairs banister and watch the well-dressed couples. The ladies in their beautiful gowns! She would often wonder about their everyday lives. Some guests came by train while others arrived in beautiful big cars, with ladies in their big hats and beaded purses. Alice did not mention the owner and operator of the Hotel. I was so engrossed in what she told me that I forgot to ask questions.

After I settled into my new home, I was going over my conversation with Alice, and I remembered when I lived at rural Pipestone, Minnesota that my mother's friend, Elizabeth, was visiting one day when I returned home from work. We enjoyed a coffee break and Elizabeth asked if I ever went to Trosky, Minnesota. Trosky was a very small town that looked like it gave up the race! I went to St. John's Lutheran Church. It did have two grocery stores and a store that looked to be abandoned. Elizabeth said, "You must visit the store." The owner's name was Stewart Clausen and he was a ladies man. Well, see for yourself. Years ago we called him Stewie. One Saturday I made the four mile trip to Trosky. It was a huge building with a very lively Liquor Store on one side and a vacant building on the other. As I entered the store, a very well-groomed older man around 90 years old (well, I was 20) everyone over 40 looked old then.

Stewie was so happy that some one came through that door! Every morning, he dressed up in his three piece suit and white shirt. He dusted the shelves with a feather duster. Shelves that held Wheaties boxes that had yellowed with age and a few cans of vegetables and fruit. He also had a show case of beautiful Victorian ribbon, hair combs (ornamental) still with yesterday's prices. I was so excited! After my purchase, Mr. Clausen asked me if I was new in the area. I told him where I lived in the rural area of Pipestone. He shook my hand and asked me where I had moved from and when I told him Gary, SD his eyes lit up. He said I have had some great times in Gary. He and his friends at a much earlier time of his life would make a trip to Gary. It was dry times in South Dakota. Stewie and his friends would fish and hunt in the Gary area and buy Hootch! They would stay at the Herrick Hotel. He asked about the old hotel and I told him it was no longer a part of Gary. He was disappointed and went on to tell me about the great food and friendly people in the area in Gary. (And Elizabeth, you were right) Old Stewie is a ladies man!! When he talked about his good times in Gary with his friends, he said that they bought Hootch in town and bought fabric from a big department store in Gary and lovely hats for their wives. In the evening, they would play cards and dance in the old hotel after a great meal. They would return home with gifts for their wives, so they would greet them with a sweet taste in their mouths.

In later years the building was not used for a hotel. Apartments were created for families with low incomes. They were cozy. I was about eight years old and a little friend invited me into her home. It was very comfortable.

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

**BUFFALO SUPPER
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 3:30 – 6:30
GARY LEGION HALL**

MAKE SURE YOU DO YOUR DUTY AND VOTE!!

Watch for the continuing saga of The Indians of Dakota Territory in future issues.

You are receiving this paper free of charge. Please remember that the membership is only \$10.00. We can use donations.

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

Thank you from the Gary Historical Association, P.O. Box 83, Gary, SD 57237