

The
Gary Interstate

Sponsored By The
GARY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

This is a monthly newspaper with news of the past and present. September 2006 issue.
www.garysd.com

Hello Again.....

Another month has gone by and this is our second edition of the Gary Interstate. We are very excited about all of the good comments that we have heard about the first issue. We are very grateful for items of interest that some of you have submitted for future issues. Watch each month as stories reveal your ideas and mine.

INDIANS OF DAKOTA TERRITORY

The rock formations made by Indians on Indian Lookout, as mentioned last month, were called Cairns. That is a Welch word meaning a heap of stones. In Scotland and Wales, a heap of stones were erected as monuments, tombstones or landmarks.

The Plains Woodland Indians lived in the eastern Dakotas from about 500 B.C. to 1000 A.D. These were the first inhabitants of the area to practice agriculture.

In historic times, the Santee Dakota Indians were in the area but it is remote that there was any relationship to the Plains Woodland Indians.

Indian mounds are located ¼ mile west of Gary on the north side of the road, called Indian Lookout.

The Indians made many small earthworks and light stone works, usually on prominent hills and along streams. There are, chiefly (at that time) memorials with the image of a bird, animal or reptile that has been made out of small boulders to indicate the lodge or cult of the person who made the memorial.

Mounds were not only made for burial places but also as earthwork forts. Inside some of the mounds were found, stone implements, weapons, and pieces of pottery formerly used by the Indians. There are several such mounds found in the Gary area and Cobb Creek area.

Later the Sioux moved into these areas to escape the Minnesota Cavalry after the New Ulm Massacre. Campsites are still visible on the Hidewood Hills, the Coteaus and the Break ways. The terrains were very favorable to hiding, hunting and living among the woods, gullies, streams and lakes of the area.

The local legend of Crow Timber Creek tells it was named for Little Crow, a chief, who was eventually captured by the cavalry near its banks.

The first burial ground was located west of Gary by the stone arrow pointing downward to the southwest from Indian Lookout. When the new cemetery was surveyed it was located in the northwest of Gary.

The graves of the white people that were placed in the first burial ground were exhumed in 1888 and were placed in the cemetery to the northwest called Grandview Cemetery, which was established in 1875. All but a few Indian graves which were never molested are still there today. A new fence was placed around the cemetery in 1893. About a hundred citizens planted trees on the main avenue of the cemetery, those furnishing them were: Capt. Harkins, the Greeleys and B. J. Cochrane.

Continued in October.

POLITICAL CANDIDATES

The politics are still going strong in Gary, Clear Lake, Brandt, Astoria, Milbank, Brookings and the surrounding areas. Mary (Mrs. Mike) Nosbush, Gary, Republican, is one candidate of three that is seeking the office of the State House of Representatives in District # 4. Two other candidates are: Val Rausch, Big Stone City, Republican and Steve Street, Revillo, Democrat.

We have an election and are FREE to secretly vote for who we wish on November 7, 2006, Election Day. The politicians are FREE to voice their own opinions, to meet and greet people of all races, to be understanding of the people and to deal with the problems of our city, county, state and country. We, the people, have the biggest task ahead of us. We are the people who will need to have an open mind and listen to both political sides and then to sort out the right answers and to elect the candidate of our choice. As United States Citizens, we should be honored to be able to elect a candidate that is knowledgeable and competent to fulfill the duties of the appointed office. That is our job!!

There is only a short time to find out how the candidates think about these issues and what they are going to do about them. I urge all of you to seek out your answers and to go and vote, November 7, 2006, in your designated districts and be proud of your vote.

RADIO PROGRAM

The Public Utilities Commission will be holding a forum. It is a talk show where people can call in with issues to be talked about. It will be on Brookings Public Radio, KESD 88.3fm or Aberdeen, KDSD, 90.9fm, both are on Thursday, September 7, at 12 noon, central.

PUBLIC TV PROGRAM WITH CANDIDATES

Legislative candidates will give a presentation of themselves on Public Television, Channel 8, on September 22 at 9:30pm, central time and September 29 at 9:30pm, central time.

OBITUARY----FORMER GARY RESIDENT

Mary Schnell, age 100, died at Bethel Home on August 29, 2006. Mary Eileen Schuster was born on October 5, 1905, at Ramona, S.D., to John and Elizabeth (Lyons) Schuster. She married Sylvester Schnell at Alamogordo, N. M., on December 26, 1952. He preceded her in death in 1981.

She is survived by her sister, June Rounds of Madison, S.D. and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral mass was held, Friday, September 1, 2006 at St. Thomas Aquinas Church with Rev. Robert Vinslauski officiating. Burial was in St. William's Cemetery at Ramona, S.D.

Mary grew up in the Nunda, Bradley and Ramona area. She graduated from high school at St. Mary's Academy, Dell Rapids. She attended Eastern State Normal School (DSU) and taught country school. She received her degree in special education and taught at the State School for the Blind in Gary, S.D. and at the School for the Blind in Alamogordo, N.M. They returned to Ramona in 1953 and she started the Kindergarten program, taught religion classes and was Eucharistic Minister at St. William's Catholic Church. She was also a substitute teacher, 4-H leader and a member of the Ramona American Legion Auxiliary.

She moved back to Madison, S.D. in 1979. She was also a member of the Catholic Daughters and the Retired Teachers Ass'n. To send a message of sympathy, visit [www. weilandfuneralchapel.com](http://www.weilandfuneralchapel.com).

This information was taken from the Argus Leader of Sioux Falls.

THE BLIND ASYLUM OF GARY, S.D.

It is an amazing fact that the people back in the late 1800's had such visions as to build a town. Then, thinking of their children, they also discussed and decided to survey and erect a school building and many businesses.

On February 1, 1895, Senator Hebal, of Deuel County, introduced a bill to locate a Blind Asylum at Gary. A law was pending but was quite likely to pass if the state would educate all blind persons within the ages of nine and thirty years. All blind persons in the state were being taken to Iowa. At this time, the village of Gary had a Court House, 34x40 feet and two stories in height, which was not being used, since the Court House had been moved. The village had asked the Senator to offer the structure free to the state and then the village would take care of its maintenance for a year provided the state will establish a Blind Asylum there.

Good fortune was falling in the lap of the village of Gary. The law passed and the village of Gary was to be commended upon taking this vision and pushing forward with it.

A state institution would annually bring thousands of dollars to the town. Mr. J. G. Lund, of Canby, Minnesota, has secured a colony of more than five hundred persons to settle upon and cultivate the fertile but unoccupied lands of the locality. Already there are propositions for the erection of business buildings and every indication points to a year of unexampled prosperity.

In 1899, construction began on the Blind Asylum. New settlers were arriving and mention was made that Gary will be the banner town of Deuel County.

Good things were happening, new people making friends and business acquaintances. The Blind Asylum opened, March 1, 1900. It was the first State School for the Blind in South Dakota. Miss Dora Donald was the first Superintendent of the school on the National Register.

Facts taken from old Interstate papers.

Check out our web site at www.garysd.com. Bernice Jensen and others are writing interesting stories there.

You are receiving this paper free of charge. Please remember that the membership is only \$10.00. We can use donations. Donations can be given to the Gary Historical Association. Two projects we are presently working on are putting cement under the machinery display and installing a tin ceiling in the old jail house.

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

Thank you,

Gary Historical Association