

Established Sept. 6, 1878; the only newspaper in the world solely interested in the welfare of Gary, SD and vicinity.

Gary Historical Association

[www.experiencegarysd.co](http://www.experiencegarysd.co)

A Monthly Insight into news of the past and present



Gary (605)272-5233

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## School is in Session

Every year since the Jr. Auxiliary started decorating the windows at the General Store, Jennifer Pederson and Melinda Jenson do the September window for back to school. Gary's American Legion Post 109 Junior Auxiliary has members from Canby, Deuel, and even Minnesota schools.



Here's to a safe and productive school year,  
and wonderful job, Melinda and Jen!



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## Country Schools

It's that time of year again and the school bells are ringing - calling school children back to the classrooms as they have since the 1870's in the Gary area. What was it like in the early days of public education on the plains? One room schoolhouses with teachers possessing little more education than their pupils but educating the children none-the-less. The Gary Public School, District #1 was organized and began meeting in rooms above the local stores until the first schoolhouse was built in 1879. The two-story wooden structure sat just west of the Lac Qui Parle creek on 1st Ave. This was the first schoolhouse built in Deuel County. The second was a one-room, country school built in northern Antelope Valley Township, organized on April 30, 1879, as District #2. The teachers' salaries varied from \$25 to \$30 per month and lengths of the school terms varied in the early years. The number of pupils also varied but by the early 1900's the number averaged 20 -25 students. Boys often attended only when not needed to work on the farms.

Teachers in the rural schools were most often women but men were preferred as it was believed that men were more capable and could handle discipline better. Men were often paid a higher salary. The teachers were responsible for cleaning and sweeping the classroom, shoveling snow, carrying water, starting and feeding and banking the stoves, and a multitude of other duties, as well as teaching the three R's to a classroom of students. As many as 30 separate lessons in a day plus playground supervision were required. The morality of the students was also a teacher's responsibility, thus separate cloakrooms and outhouses for the two genders.

Most of the rural schools in Deuel County were organized in the early 1880's. They were strategically placed so no students should have to travel more than 2 miles to school. In those early years, the first schoolhouses were small structures with low ceilings and no insulation (often heated with a coal fed stove), had outhouses and, sometimes, a well for drinking and washing water. They usually sat on a temporary foundation and were often moved around the district to wherever the population of school-aged children was greatest.

As the rural population grew, there became a need for larger, more modern school buildings. There was also a push for more standardized schoolhouses. These standards included 10-foot ceilings, separate cloakrooms and bathrooms for boys and girls, adequate lighting from sufficient windows, better heating and ventilation, and potable water for drinking. Many of these new standards were intended to create a healthier environment in the schools. Many of our area rural schools were rebuilt in the early 1900's, utilizing many of these new ideas.

These early schools were often funded by bonding as this would shift the burden of payment to future settlers as well as those already here. Each district levied taxes for education, a percentage going to each - interest on the bonds, -teachers' wages and -a contingency fund. There were also the school lands - Section 16 of each township was reserved as a school land to support public education: this was later amended to include a second section (36) of land.

These common school lands were either sold or leased and the proceeds held in permanent trust for education. This trust fund was administered by the Commissioner of School and Public Lands and continues today.





Normal Schools were institutions created to train teachers by educating them in standardized methods of education. These teachers would primarily educate elementary students in common schools. Madison MN had a normal school and many teachers in Deuel County received their training there. By 1900, there were fourteen 'colleges' established in SD, most were training teachers for rural schools around the state. Dakota State University began as Dakota Normal School in 1881 (name changed to General Beadle State Teachers College in 1947).

Over the years, the rural population grew and later declined and the rural schools in Deuel County began to consolidate with the town schools. The Troupe School south of Gary was one of the last operating country schools in our area, closing in 1970.

**Eighth Grade Examination for Bullitt County Schools, November, 1912**

**Spelling**

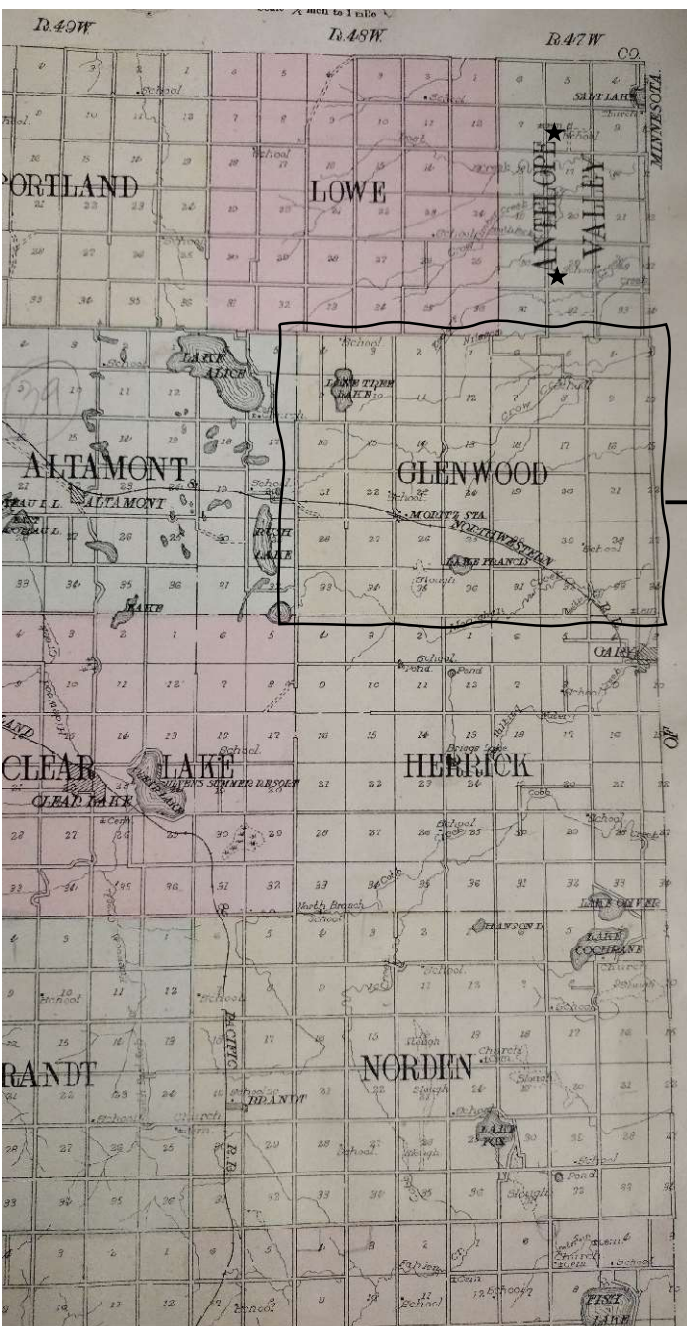
Exaggerate, incentive, conscious, pennyweight, chandelier, patient, potential, creature, participate, authentic, bequeath, diminish, genuine, vinegar, incident, monotony, hyphen, antecedent, autumn, hideous, relieve, conceive, control, symptom, rhinoceros, adjective, partial, musician, architect, exhaust, diagram, endeavor, scissors, associate, sauceman, benefit, masculine, synopsis, circulate, eccentric. 100

**Reading**

1. Reading and Writing. (given by the teacher.)

**Arithmetic**

- Write in words the following:  
.5764; 0.0003; .123416; 653.0965; 43.37. 10
- Solve: 35.7 plus 4, 5.8 plus 5.14 - 59.112. 10
- Find cost at 12½ cents per sq. yd. of kalsomining the walls of a room 20 ft. long, 16 ft. wide and 9 ft. high, deducting 1 door 8 ft. by 4 ft. 6 in. and 2 windows 5 ft. by 3 ft. 6 in. each. 10
- A man bought a farm for \$2400 and sold it for \$2700. What per cent did he gain? 10
- A man sold a watch for \$180. and lost 16⅔%. What was the cost of the watch? 10
- Find the amount of \$50.30 for 3 yrs., 3 mo. and 3 days, at 8 per cent. 10
- A school enrolled 120 pupils and the number of boys was two thirds of the number of girls. How many of each sex were enrolled? 10
- How long a rope is required to reach from the top of a building 40 ft. high, to the ground 30 ft. from the base of the building? 10
- How many steps 2 ft. 4 in. each will a man take in walking 2 1-4 miles? 10
- At \$1.62½ a cord, what will be the cost of a pile of wood 24 ft. long, 4 ft. wide and 6 ft. 3 in. high? 10



## Fairchild Farmgirl

I just watched my four middle kids load up the horse trailer with their four horses and go on a weekend long camping and trail ride. And Ron and I didn't go with. I mean, there's tons of adults there, many that we are friends with. Also, we'll have to sell at farmers market, participate in youth football, and we have to bring one kid back and forth to work. Let us also remember, that I just got a new hip that I don't fancy getting dislocated. LOL! And we trust our kids. Besides, like I said, they're camping right next to our friends. I did have to giggle when Grace put her castrating knife on her belt before they left. "You never know." She said with a wink. What, that you may have to defend yourself or that you may need to do a castration on a squirrel that's in the tree above your tent? So let me spill it. Can I just say that I honestly didn't know how to feel about them going away for a weekend? I mean, sure it's nice that we literally only have two kids at home and we get to experience a super quiet weekend, I can listed to podcasts or watch my Netflix show on the tv for a change, but it also means that my kids are growing up. Gah! I don't think I like it. We first had this realization the other night when Ron and I brought Tedd; the last kid going to elementary school to the burger feed/open house to meet his teacher. We laughed as we remembered in the past bringing in our herd of little children and the teachers would rush to grab the newest baby to hold or help us with trays for the little ones. I never thought in a million years seeing my kids get older would bother me so much. I know when they were babies, I couldn't wait for them to get older because the night feeding and diaper changing would be over (we usually would have at least two in diapers sometimes three). Then even though I had a blast snuggling them and dressing them in cute clothes, I was happy to see them out of the toddler stage and doing bigger kid stuff that (selfishly I enjoy) like playing games and cards, making art stuff with them or going for hikes. This past Sunday I looked down to the other side of the pew at church (we still almost fill one up), and I looked at all my kids really noticing that they are all teenagers except Tedd, whose on the tail end of being a ten year old. WHAT is happening? But as I sit here and think about it, did I just wish them into high school without thinking? I know it sounds silly, but I think, wait a second, did we all spend enough time with them? I mean we did...at least I feel we did. But this time is fleeting by so quick and pretty soon they'll all be gone and living their own lives. As the kids loaded up the horses this morning, I made them each hug me before they left. Which lets be honest, I've been making them hug me a lot lately. 'Are you irritated by me making you hug me? I'm irritated by the fact that you'll all be leaving me in a few years.' Is what I feel like saying when I get an occasional eye roll from them. Then I remember the deal that I have with my youngest six but have yet to share with my oldest three. I'm having "granny pods" built at each of their homes. We can spend exactly five

weeks and 4 days with each as we live our best life traveling to each place free as gypsies. I'll cook for them and Ron can mow their lawn and work in their garden. Hopefully that'll be okay with everyone. You know, I make a mean batch of chocolate chip cookies.

Fairchild Farmgirl

### **GATE CITY GENERAL**

*A little bit of everything...*

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## **School Days: *My memories of District #57, Glenwood Township***

We moved to the Gary community in the spring of 1967 during the annual “musical farms” when farm families moved from one rental farm to another. We came from Estelline, SD and had always attended the town school so the transition to a one-room schoolhouse with a single teacher was an interesting experience.

The teachers during my years in District #57 were Mary Hergenroder and Lavonne Kjeldon. There were only two pupils in my class - Debby Fritz and myself. My younger sister, Barb, was saddened that there was no kindergarten in this new school. I don't recall being any further advanced nor behind in education then or when we transitioned to Gary Public School in the fall of 1968.

My memories of country school include the morning inspection when the teacher would check to see that our hands were washed, our hair brushed, and our nails clean. We always recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Recess included ball games, snowball fights (I recall the older kids lining up all the younger kids and throwing snowballs at us), Red Rover, Red Rover, and Anti-I-Over the barn. I don't recall any playground equipment, so I guess we just made our own fun. The Pederson boys rode their horses to school and kept them in the barn all day. In the spring, we cleaned the library and found a nest of baby mice much to the dismay of the teacher.

For May Day, we drew names and made baskets to exchange. One of the older boys hid my basket way up in a tree and eight-year-old me (in a dress) could not climb to get it. He thought that was funny - I did not!

The Christmas program was a huge deal. Wires were strung to create a stage and a program based on the nativity was presented for all the parents and neighbors. Such an exciting night for a small child.

We never had to walk to school (we lived 2 ½ miles away) but we did often walk home if the weather was nice. I always wanted to have my kids walk that route when they complained about the long driveway they had to walk. *Patti Kaiser Haas*

## **A Look Back...**

### **100 years ago, September 1923**

Ralph Allenson breaks arm while cranking his car and it backfires  
 Pearl Heaton and Maurice Peden wed  
 Birth - boy to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. McLain  
 Specials- 1 large can of peaches 28¢

### **75 years ago, September 1948**

School starts September 6  
 Gary Lutheran Church holds rededication service  
 Mrs. Lawrence Kelly receives injuries after being thrown from car  
 Pheasant season opens  
 Sons to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rourk and Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Ness  
 Daughters to Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Stone and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gage  
 Deaths: Georgia Newton and Mrs. Ella Sherburne

### **50 years ago, September 1973**

Gary has an exchange teacher from Japan  
 Mrs. Sefferd (Theresa) Nuteson hurt in car accident  
 Funeral home sold to Mr. & Mrs. James Eng  
 Auctions: Walt Hundertmark, Lyndon and Kathy Limberg, Edward Kaiser, Jr.  
 Marriages: Brenda Saltee and Neil Olsen, Carol Theisen and Lyle Nelson  
 Birth - a boy to Janelle & Don Denekamp

### **25 years ago, September 1998**

ITC meeting held September 12  
 Crocker reunion held  
 Tim Miller named Safety Director of the Year  
 Volunteers needed for annual Buffalo Supper  
 Auction: Hilda Rehder  
 Deaths: Maxine Griffing Olsen, Emmet Mercer, Edward Westgard, and Paul E. Stone

## Class of 1963 Reunion

The Class of 1963 Gary High School met at the Stateline Bar and Grill on Saturday, Sept. 2<sup>nd</sup> to celebrate their 60th Class Reunion.

Those attending were Pastor Dallas Miller, Don Hartman, Ray Hults, Darwin Hunt, Mike Gilbertson, Ron Stangeland, and Elonne Cole Veen.

Pastor Dallas Miller, Mike Gilbertson, Bruce Stangeland, Ray Hults, Carol Hundertmark Deboer, and Elonne Cole Veen all attended Gary from first grade to twelfth grade graduation.



Those unable to attend were Betty Kloos, Peter Olson, and James McCormick. We remembered those classmates who are no longer with us - Carol Hundertmark Deboer, James Fitzpatrick, Bruce Stangeland, and Paul Serverson.

Coffee and dessert were served at the Elonne Cole Veen residence.

The Class Reunion continued on to Sunday, Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> at the First Evangelical Lutheran Church where our classmate Pastor Gary Miller delivered the sermon. It was enjoyed by all his classmates and many friends.

The Gary Tigers of 1963 hope to meet again in 2028. A special thank you to our photographer and friend, Marilyn Koeppen.

Left to right- Darwin Hunt, Ray Hults, Elonne Cole Veen, Mike Gilbertson, Ron Stangeland, Dallas Miller, Don Hartman

## School District #57, Glenwood Township

The first record of any school in session in District #57 was in 1886. The school was located in the corner of the northwest quarter of Section 8. The following teachers taught from 1886 to 1890 - Lizzie Keene, Frankie Babcock, B.J. Buckland, Grace Enos, Carrie Ward, Ida Shampino, and Franc Herrick.

Records are missing from 1905 to 1914 but the teachers were David Gould, Gertie Pederson, Jennie Fawkes, Mary Kerr, Bessie Wells, Alice Pettyjohn, Anna Schweinfurt, Neva Hunt, and Sarah Quinlan.

A new schoolhouse was built on the original location in 1914. Jacob Jibben purchased the old building and moved it one mile east and one and a half miles south to his land. The new schoolhouse was considered a proud and commendable addition to the community, having a cistern and pump for washing facilities; also chemical toilets, a large school room and cloakroom - hall.

From 1919 to 1921, there were 39 pupils attending. In 1926, the District voted to move the schoolhouse one mile east and a half mile south to a better, more centralized location. Teachers during the years 1914-1968 included Florence Branick, Gloria Gordan, Jennie Winrow, Marian Inlagen, Bertha Heaton, Mrs. Lula Anderson, Hazel Hubbs, Tossie Kerr, E.R. Hoy, Frances Moran, Amy Haugland Hazelle Collins, Ethel Kerr, Mildred Myree Mork, Lucille Harding, Vera Reihe, Katherine McLain, Joyce Anderson, Shirley Smith, Mildred Waldon, Hilda Beninga, Shirley Clark, Mrs. Leila Kruse, Mrs. Betty Engebretson, Mrs. Alyce Knopp, N. Shelsta, Mrs. Dorothy Jensen, Mrs. Edna Lage, Mrs. Mary Hergenroder, and Mrs. Lavonne Kjeldon.

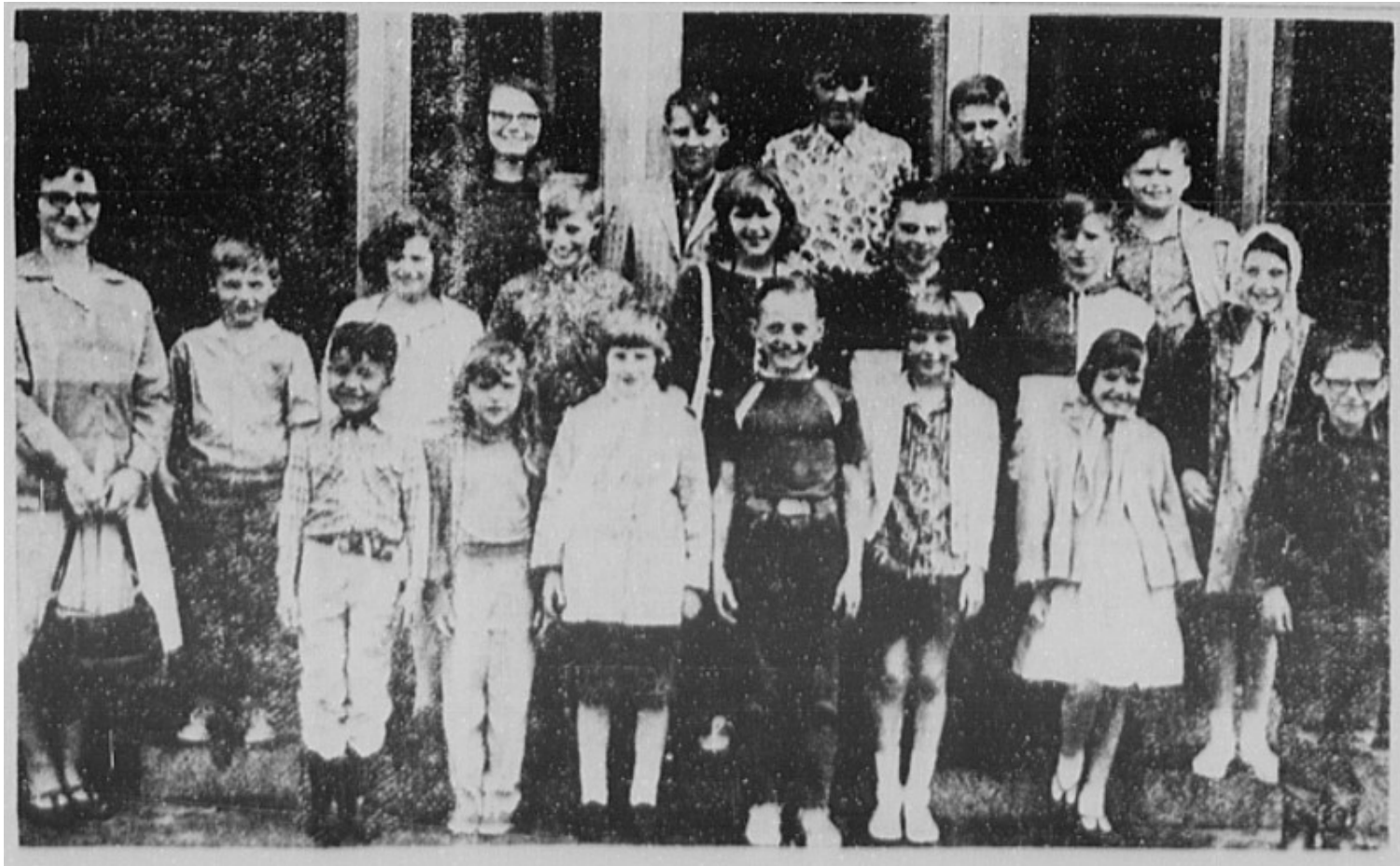
One July 5th in 1964, the schoolhouse was struck by lightning and burned. A vacant schoolhouse from Manfred Township in Minnesota was purchased and moved onto a



foundation of cement blocks. The school board had a very busy summer going to vacant schoolhouses and sales to buy books and supplies so the school could be in session by September. School continued until the spring term ended in 1968, when rural schools were forced to consolidate. The student from District #57 began to attend school in the Gary Public School system. The schoolhouse building was sold to Warner Volk and moved to his farm to be used as a shop. Coincidentally, that was the location of the first District #57 school.

Mrs. Nick Jacobson compiled this article, with assistance from Mrs. Bertha Cole and Mrs. Lillian Sherburne.

From the Historical Collections of Deuel County, Vol I.



Lytle District #57 field trip to Sioux Falls SD on May 10, 1967. We visited John Morrell and Co., Pettigrew Museum, the Great Plains Zoo, Dennis the Menace Park and the airport. Pictured in the back row: Linda Sween, Eugene Lorenzen, Jan Pederson, Mark Simonton, Ronald Volk; Middle row: Mrs. Mary Hergenroder, Kevin Simonton, Kristine Schmahl, Steven Fritz, Julie Simonton, Arnold Sween, Stanley Fritz, Janice Kaiser; Front row: Morris Pederson, Robin Simonton, Debra Fritz, Leon Kaiser, Julienne Sween, Patricia Kaiser, Jerome Kaiser. Districts #23 and #73 along with teachers Esther Thompson and Mavis Stoltenburg joined us on the bus trip. The John Morrell experience was a bit much for 8-year-old me and I got sick. I don't remember much more of that field trip.

Please send your memories of one room schools to the [ghainterstate@gmail.com](mailto:ghainterstate@gmail.com)

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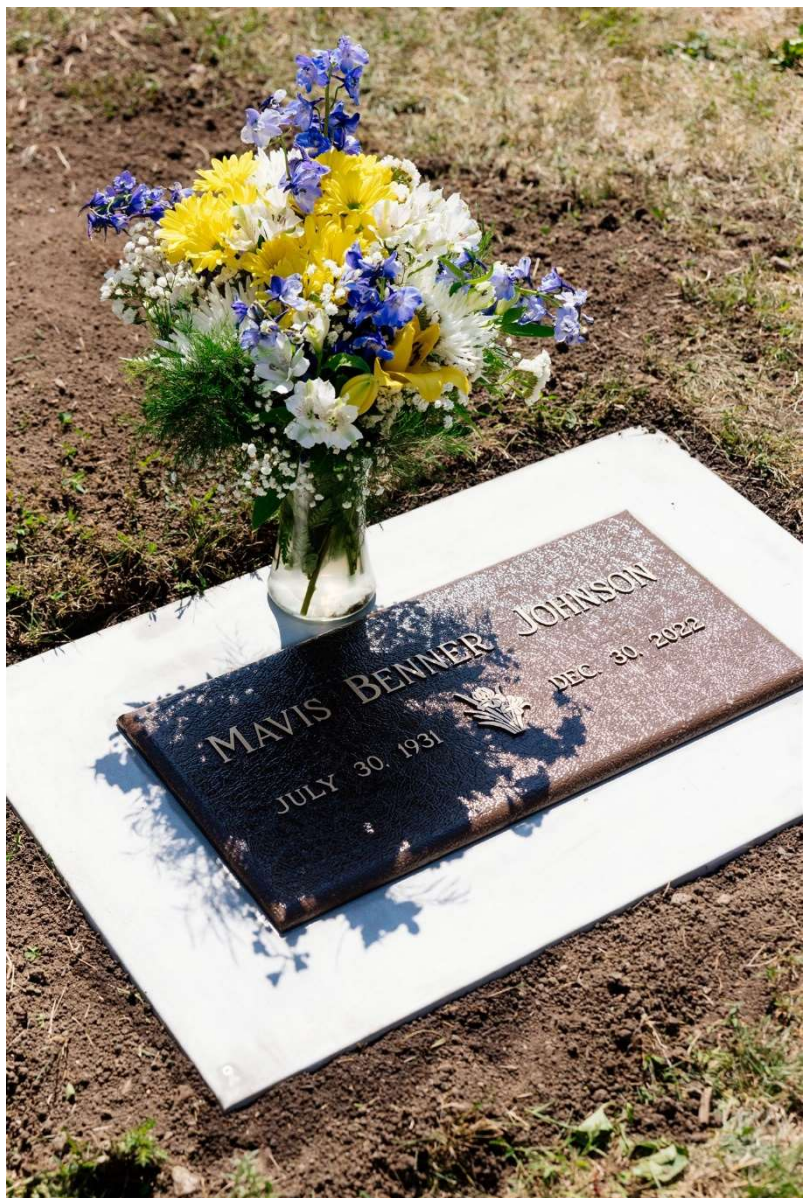
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Follow the [Gary, SD Community Club](#) on Facebook for upcoming community events!

Get your Ghosts & Ghouls ready for October 28<sup>th</sup>!

Starting at 4PM  
Kid's Halloween Party, Trunk or Treat, Boo Walk, Haunted House & Dance!





“Our family gathered on July 28 to inter the remains of Mavis Benner Johnson at the Gary cemetery in the Benner family plot. We had a good turnout of Mavis' family, scattered from Alaska, Iowa, Minnesota, Virginia, California, Colorado, Oregon and South Dakota. The interment was followed by a drive-by of Lake Cochrane, a Johnson family favorite dating back to Mavis' childhood, and then a reception at the Revillo community center, where many more

relatives and friends recalled stories about her. Among those attending was Vera Meyers, a childhood friend from Gary.”

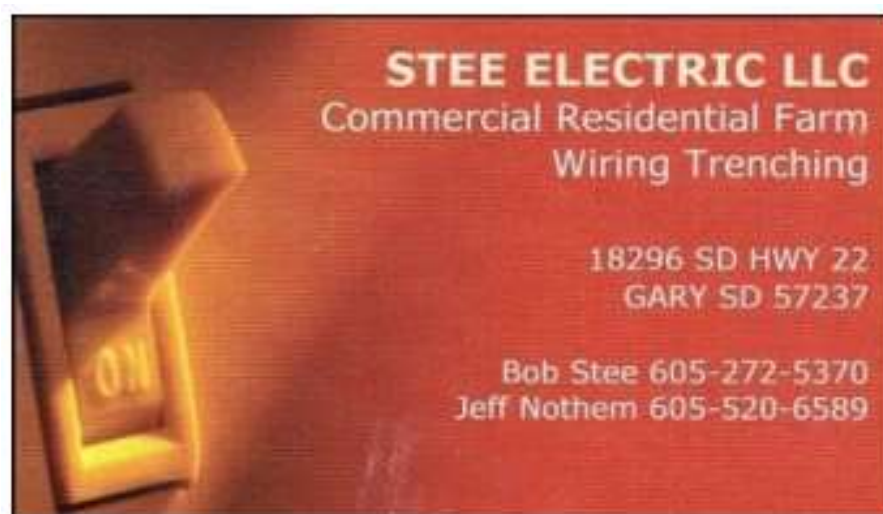


Mavis Benner Johnson, a longtime resident of Watertown and Revillo, died Dec. 30, 2022, at age 91. A celebration of Mavis' life was scheduled for summer 2023.

Mavis was born in Gary, SD, on July 30, 1931. After high school graduation, Mavis worked as a bank teller in Gary until she married Walter Johnson, a farmer near Revillo, SD, in 1952.

After raising six children, Mavis went back to school and earned her bachelor's degree in counseling from Mount Marty College in Watertown and then her master's degree in social work from South Dakota State University. In recent years, she resided in Watertown, Clear Lake and finally at Sanford Health Sylvan Court in Canby, MN.

Mavis was preceded in death by her parents, all of her siblings, her husband Walter, and her son William, who died in a car accident in 2020. She is survived by James Johnson (Gail), of Crystal, MN; Sandy Johnson (Chuck Raasch), of Alexandria, VA; Jill Woster (Tim), of North Pole, AK; Billy's wife Stefane Johnson, of Revillo; Sonja Johnson, of McMinnville, OR; and Sara MacGregor (Scott), of Encinitas, CA; 14 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.





## Support Squad



### 5k for Rob Ronne

**Saturday, September 9th**

Gary Bar / Main Street / Gary, SD  
 8:30 a.m. registration  
 9:30 a.m. start time

Pre-register by  
**Tuesday, August 8th-\$25.00,**  
 guarantees tshirt, race day \$30,  
 kids 5-10 \$15(shirt) kids 4 & under free (no shirt)

**Sponsors: name on back of shirt/1 tshirt \$60**



**Silent auction, meal and bean bag tournament to follow 5k**  
 All proceeds benefit Rob Ronne who is battling throat cancer.

Registration forms available at the  
**GARY BAR & on Gary Givers Facebook page.**

**The Gary Givers**

## FUNDRAISER



### THURSDAY NIGHTS

*at the Gary Liquor Store*

**TICKET SALES: 5 P.M. – 7 P.M.**  
*Drawing: 7:15 P.M. – Must be present to win!*  
**\*\* Must be at least 21 years old to participate. \*\***  
 2 tickets – \$5 ♥ 5 tickets – \$10 ♥ 20 tickets – \$20

Dear Non Profit

We are planning for round 4 of Track the Jack. We have had many organizations request to be included in the ticket selling process of the Track the Jack ticket sales. During round 3 we have not accepted any new non profits.

We have decided to leave it up to the public and you the current ticket sellers, to make this decision for us. Each week when a player buys their tickets they will be able to cast a vote for their favorite organization ( new or existing). When the votes are all tallied the top 20 organizations will be the ones to sell tickets for round 4. Since we don't know when the jack will be claimed, we will be starting the nomination process in August.

To our current organizations this is a great chance for you to encourage your group members/friends not selling tickets to come in and cast their votes. It doesn't have to be while you are selling tickets either, any Thursday will work!

To any future organizations you can also have your group and friends come in to cast their votes any time during Track the Jack! Just ask them to cast a vote for your organization.

We have always and will always try our hardest to keep things fair and transparent. Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Shirley Pederson, Misti Thomas, Rachel Hinsvark, And Robin Lanners

**American Legion  
Peden-Cole Post #109  
Gary, SD**

## ANNUAL POULTRY PARTY

**Saturday, October 21, 2023**

**7:30 PM**

**Legion Dance Hall**

Fun for All Ages

**BINGO PULL TABS RAFFLES**

**WIN A TURKEY or a HAM**

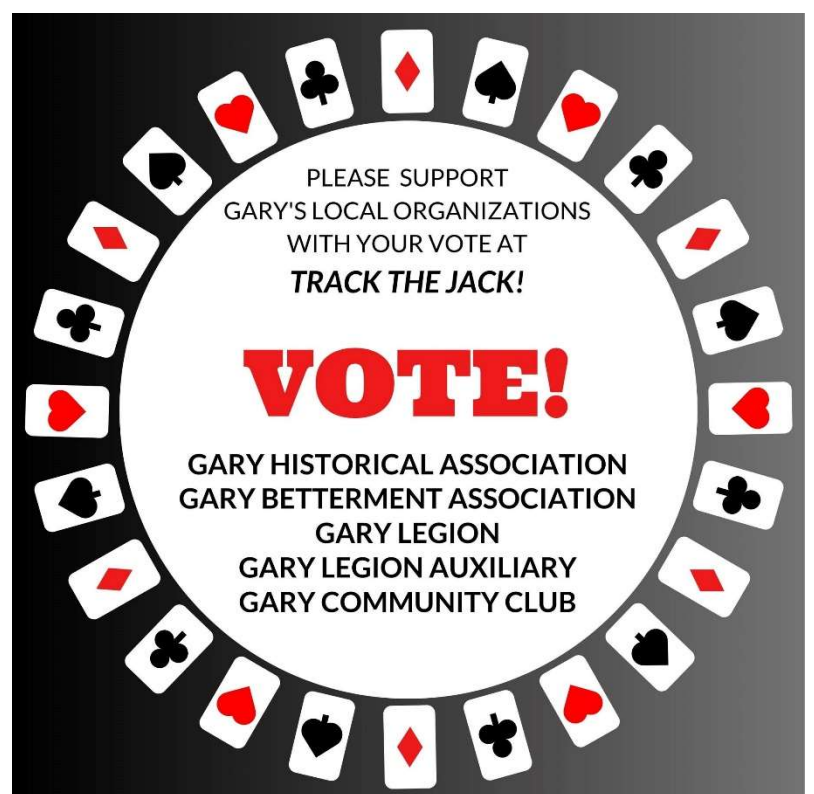
#109 Supper Club will be open at 5:30

COME JOIN THE FUN!!



**See you there!!**

Veterans serving Veterans.



PLEASE SUPPORT  
 GARY'S LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS  
 WITH YOUR VOTE AT  
**TRACK THE JACK!**

## VOTE!

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Have you been to our website?  
[www.experiencegarysd.com](http://www.experiencegarysd.com)

It is loaded with interesting information, including,  
Bill Stone's book at:  
<http://experiencegarysd.com/billstonebook.cfm>

And the Gary High School Orange Book at <http://experiencegarysd.com/garyschoolorangebook.cfm>

Gary Historical Ass'n is on FaceBook  
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