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

\*Gary Historical Association\*\*

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A Monthly Insight into news of the past and present



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2024

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### **Homesteading**

Everyone has a story of how they come to be in this place. Many of the older families can trace their 'beginnings' to a homestead. The Gary area was settled mainly during the land rush of the late 1870's and early 1880's in response to the Homestead Act of 1862 and the railroads which made their way into Dakota Territory in 1872 and later. But how did our country get to the point of legislating the Homestead Act?

In the early years of our Republic, the consensus was that publicly owned lands should be sold to generate revenue for the government. Western farmers began to petition the government, asking that public land be given without charge to settlers willing to work the land. In 1848, the Free-Soil Party included a plank in their platform urging the distribution of publicly owned lands to settlers free of charge.

There was opposition to the homestead movement by Eastern businessmen who did not want their workers to have an option of leaving their low-paying jobs for a free farm out west. Eastern landowners were also concerned that their property values would be threatened should land in public domain be given away to anyone willing to settle on it. Southern slaveholders were concerned that homesteaders were anti-slavery advocates so they, too, blocked Homestead legislation. Andrew Johnson of Tennessee was a leading spokesman for the Homestead Movement. Bills were introduced in Congress in 1846 and 1852, and both failed. When participation in the federal government by many southern states ceased in 1861, homestead legislation became possible.

The Republican party came out in support of Homestead legislation in 1860. On May 20, 1862, President Lincoln signed the Homestead Act, providing 160 acres of public lands free of charge (except for the filing fee) to anyone 21 years of age or a head of a family and a citizen or one who had filed for citizenship, The homesteader was required to live on and cultivate the land for at least 5 years. By 1900, more than 80 million acres had been claimed by 600,000 homesteaders.

My great, great grandparents, Jacob and Madlen Kaiser, were one such homesteading family who settled and proved up a farm near Kranzburg, South Dakota in 1879. This farm

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remained in the Kaiser family for 130 years. So homesteading is how I came to be in this place.

But what about today's modern homesteaders? Modern homesteading refers to a self-sufficient and sustainable lifestyle – living off the land to the best of one's ability. It is characterized by subsistence farming, home preservation of food, and may include small scale production of textiles, clothing, and furnishings for household use. Recycling, reusing and renewing to minimize environmental impact and creating or repairing items before purchasing new are part of the simpler lifestyle. Making your own cleaning products and repairing clothing, tools, and household items greatly reduces the plastics and other articles that end up in the landfills. The idea of modern homesteading began with people's wish to re-connect with the source of their food and to live a simpler lifestyle. Most modern homesteaders have a small acreage and raise a garden and a few animals like chickens for food. Some go as far as to live off the grid (not connected to power lines) and run a full-fledged farm. Others choose to support farmers' markets where they know who grows their food. It is a lifestyle with purpose or a spectrum of lifestyles with purpose.

-Patti Haas (Look for more next month.)

## The Journey

We all have a story to tell of how we got to where we are, and this is Mark Fairchild's story. Marquist (Mark) Fairchild was born near Canby, MN in 1902. He was the youngest in a family of six children born to Henry and Mary Etta "Mollie" Anderson Fairchild.



"Mother" Mary Etta, Lyman, Caroline, Roy (back), Mark (front), Ethel, "Father" Henry, George

The family had lived in Nebraska until moving to Minnesota around 1890. They lived in Minnesota for 21 years before returning to Nebraska in the 1910's. Roy and George remained in the Canby area and Henry later returned to live and work with his sons until his death in 1928.

Mark's wife, Mollie, remained in Nebraska with her daughter Caroline and son Lyman until her death in 1938.

Annie Christensen Fairchild was born in 1904 near Elyria, Nebraska. Her parents, Nels and Martine Christensen had immigrated from Denmark in 1901. The family left Nebraska for Polk County, Wisconsin, following the minister of their church. Annie and Mark Fairchild met in Nebraska, possibly when Annie was visiting her sister, Mary Burson, who had remained in Nebraska when the family left for Wisconsin. Mark followed Annie to Wisconsin where they were married in Polk County on November 6, 1927.

The farm crisis started in the 1920's, ten years before the Great Depression descended on America, and affected all the farmers in the Midwest. The Golden Age of Agriculture ended along with World War I.

Continued page 7.

### **Fairchild Farmgirl**

It can't be August! It was just July 1st and you can't tell me any different. Although, I guess we did have a full July which made it go by so fast. Here's the skinny on what's been happening. We took our senior daughter to SDSU, we also looked at some horse boarding places in case she'd want to have her horse close, (sidenote: we need to start a boarding facility, that's where the cash is at) we also looking into some places that she can apply to work at next summer/fall. We're getting ready to move Grace up to Watertown, she's transferring to Lake Area. The other kids are working like crazy to supplement their winter school months, car dreams and college savings accounts.

Tedd and I have been selling out of our flowers each week at the market, and rightfully so; how could you not buy from a sweet kid who can tell you about our wildflower hunting Friday morning escapades to put in our bouquets? Or the fact that he knows the names to all the flowers that we raise and pick in the wild?

As for here at the ranchero, we've been doing a little operation clean up around here and that started with the old Ranger Crew side by side. If we're not using it, well, get rid of it. I will say, I was a slight bit sentimental when they were loading it on the trailer. The times that we loaded all the kids on it and took it to the park or just took drives on it, hauled calves in the box from the feedlot, well it was a good ride. But we're sick of putting money into it. I will say though, my new motto is to throw my hand in the air, pointing eastward to Marshall and yell, "to the scrapyard!" We actually sold the side by side to a person, but one son is hauling a few cars down for scrap and we have to bring another sizeable pile down. If I hear, "well scrap's not worth a whole lot," I'll either be questioning my marriage or sanity. Kidding...maybe.

However, the most exciting thing this month besides taking the kids out to see the new movie Twister and going out for supper was the purchase of a new to us riding lawn mower. We have been mowing our lawn with a push...and mostly it's been me, lets be honest. Every time I ask a kid, they're mentioning to me about the steps that I'm always wanting to get in on the daily. Confession time: I really love doing lawn work, so it doesn't bother me a whole lot.

On our summer bucket list was to take the kids somewhere before school starts, but with football starting, some school shopping left, Grace going back to college, and some more college visits with our junior and senior, it's not looking great. We also haven't painted the porches and trim yet on the house and I am telling you, we need to do it! That and wash the windows and casings. Have you ever really looked on the outside of your windows lately? Ours are covered in spider webs and fly poop...well not covered, but you get the gist, it's grody and needs a power washing, as well as the siding does too.

But I will say, I'm very excited for fall. I love football, chilly days, soup, all the things. I'm also going to sub for my second year across the border in South Dakota. I LOVE it. The kids are a blast and the great thing about subbing is, it's always different. The only thing I would love, is to be able to sub in Minnesota, but since I only have an Applied Science degree and not a Bachelor's degree, I can't. So for now, I'll stay in South Dakota. But if you have the credentials and you are thinking about it, do it. Subbing is a blast, and working with students is really rewarding. My favorite is the highschool kids...those pre K -6th graders are tough on this old lady, but I do still love to see all those smiley faces.

Back to the grind. I have been thinking about all the years that I've done monthly articles and I love sharing my life with all of you. You, my readers, make it all worth it. Have a great month!

Until next time,

Fairchild "enough of this sap...send it to Marshall!" Farmgirl

### A Look Back...

100 years ago, August 1924

Flax is making a big crop this year Road graders working on road north (state-line road)

Public schools open September 1st Robert Drew closing grocery store Marriage: Maybelle Pettyjohn & Lyle Burkhart

Birth: Boy to Mr. & Mrs. John Helmberger

75 years ago, August 1949

Gary ball team enters state tournament in Aberdeen

Barn fire at John Matson farm Marriages:

Betty Tassler & James Anderson Edythe Peden & Rev. Wm. Casini Delores Martens & Bud Wilber Eldeen Olsen & Arnold Baer Lucille Johnson & Orville Kenyon Birth: Son to Mr. & Mrs. Carl Rood

50 years ago, August 1974

Dam planned for William Webber farm Gary wins softball tourney School opens August 26 Baler fire at Robert Wiederich farm Ditch grass fire at Ordean Nelson farm Combine fire at Gillard Sween farm Births:

Son to Mr. & Mrs. Don Full Girl to Mr. & Mrs. Curt Curr Twin boys to Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Evans Marriages:

Beverly Petersen & Terry Kenyon Rita Pieper & Dennis Hoemberge Delores Keimig & Roger Pedersen Death: Joseph Tschacher

25 years ago, August 1999

Unit 3 of Gary Housing Association gets new shingles

Memorial furniture presented to 1st Lutheran Church in memory of Sherry Hunt Miller

Gary Girls 14 and Under are softball champions!

### Fair Season

It's fair time and it brings back memories for many former 4-H members. 4-H is so much more than learning how to raise a healthy calf or grow an amazing garden or bake flavorful cookies. It's learning how to be a responsible person, how to be a leader and how to contribute to one's community. It's about doing public speaking, keeping good records, learning about rate of gain, and having fun. There are 4-H softball tournaments, Fashion Revues, Christmas parties, 4-H dances, and the fairs. 4-H teaches youth to connect and communicate with new people they meet at club, county and state levels. This will prepare them for the future as they head off to college or enter the job force. Young people learn how to keep trying and to keep learning. This ultimately teaches them how to succeed, not just in 4-H but in life. Kids learn to do and re-do and strive to do better. They also learn how to handle the not-quitemaking-it and the not-even-coming-close moments. There are lessons to be learned from the 'white ribbon moments,' too. Check out the local and state fairs and give a 4-h'er the opportunity to share who they are and what they are doing. You might be surprised!



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### **National Register: Part VI**

The Herrick Barn is located approximately one-half mile west of Gary in Deuel County, South Dakota. It was constructed in 1899 by Captain Henry H. Herrick, an early settler of Deuel County. Herrick was a former Mississippi River steamboat captain until he moved to Deuel County in 1871. When the Winona & St. Peter Railroad began constructing their line near Gary in 1872, they established their construction camp in Gary. Herrick took advantage of this by opening a hotel to accommodate the railroad workers. Herrick also owned a livery stable in Gary. In May 1899 Herrick tore down this livery stable and used the materials to construct the nominated barn west of town.

The barn was constructed into the side of a hill with a stone foundation visible on the southwest, northwest, and northeast elevations. The lower level of the barn is timber framed and the roof is a braced rafter frame. It has a gambrel roof with wood shingles and exposed rafters. The barn sits on a northeast-southwest axis. All the other buildings that formerly were situated on the farm no longer exist.



Varying amounts of rainfall resulted in differing types of agriculture developing east of the Missouri River compared to the western part of the state. Large scale sheep and cattle ranches emerged in the dryer western region of South Dakota while smaller farms focused on crops like wheat, corn, and oats as well as dairying developed in eastern South Dakota. The types of resources constructed characterized these different types of agriculture. During the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, farmers experimented with new barn forms and features, attempting to enclose the maximum amount of space at the lowest possible cost and attain the highest degree of efficiency. The gambrel roof was one feature commonly turned to by farmers across the Midwest to increase the amount of space in the loft area. The bank feature was another method of construction some farmers used to increase efficiency by allowing them easy access to both levels of the barn. Identifying features of a bank barn found in the Herrick Barn include construction into the side of a hill along one of the barn's long sides, wood frame construction, a stone foundation, outside access into each level, animal storage on the lower level, and hay storage in the loft on the upper level. The form of this barn is common, including a gambrel roof and a long rectangular plan. While the bank feature on

the Herrick Barn is relatively unique to South Dakota, features of the Herrick Barn are similar to that of other National Register-listed bank barns in South Dakota, including its stone foundation, construction into the side of a hill, and roof line parallel to the bank. Although the overall farm site no longer retains its historic integrity, the Barn does retain sufficient integrity from its date of construction in South Dakota during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The barn was listed on the National Register in 2005. It met the criteria for Architectural Classification. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

Information for this article came from the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, and Bill Stone's Gateway to the Dakotas.

In researching the archives of the Gary Interstate from May of 1899, it has been discovered that the above-described barn is not necessarily the barn constructed by Henry Herrick with the lumber salvaged from the Herrick Livery.



The Gary Interstate, May 12, 1899, The Herrick livery barn near the mill has been torn down and the material is being used in constructing a barn on one of Herrick's farms west of town, the Bertram place.

The Gary Interstate, May 19, 1899, We were misinformed about the barn H.H. Herrick is erecting on section 18, as being on the Bertram quarter - it is on the Mann quarter. Mr. Herrick has commenced breaking there and expects to finish about 100 acres this season. (Section 18 sits three miles south-west of Gary)



Sadly, the barn is no longer standing but remains on the National Register. The National Historic Landmark designation can be withdrawn as the property no longer meets the criteria for the designation - the qualities for which it was originally designated have been lost or destroyed. Loss of integrity (through alteration, addition, or demolition) is the most common reason for the

withdrawal of Landmark designation. Although the NHL designation may be withdrawn, a property can remain listed in the National Register of Historic Places if it still meets the separate criteria for that listing.

### **The Journey Continued**

During the war, the federal government had encouraged farmers to increase production to feed the troops and support the war effort. Farmers bought additional machinery and land to meet the demand during the war. Government price supports for agriculture products ended in 1920, and guaranteed prices for wheat and other crops were terminated. Prices fell - but the farmers still had loans and mortgages to pay. Over-production was also an issue. With European farms producing again, there was decreased export demand. The U.S. loans to European nations ended, which resulted in further reduced demand for U.S. agricultural products for export.

Farm income fell 41% between 1919 and 1921. Land values had doubled and sometimes tripled in the 1910's as farmers had used their profits to purchase additional land. These values now plunged in the 1920's and the decade became a continual cycle of debt stemming from falling farm prices and farm values. Farmers scrambled to make farm mortgage payments and to pay their taxes which had tripled from \$.46 an acre in 1913 to \$1.45 an acre in 1932.

|                         | 1914 prices   | 1919 prices | 1932 prices |
|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Corn (a bushel)         | <b>\$.</b> 59 | \$1.30      | \$.28       |
| Wheat (a bushel)        | \$1.05        | \$2.34      | \$.44       |
| Hogs (a hundred weight) | \$7.40        | \$16.70     | \$3.20      |
| Milk (a hundred weight) | \$1.50        | \$2.95      | \$1.10      |

Then came the stock market crash of 1929 and later the bank failures of the early 1930's. But, overall, the farmers may have had it better than their city dwelling counterparts. Farmers could grow and raise their food – from beef, pork, chicken and eggs to garden produce and fruits. When the price of their crops became too low, they could choose to burn corn instead of coal for heat. One of Roosevelt's New Deal programs was the Agricultural Adjustment Administration (1933) which offered incentives for farmers to produce less resulting in an increase in prices for that which was produced. To meet the demands by AAA, acres of crops were plowed under, and animals were slaughtered to meet subsidy guidelines. But the result was that farm income did increase under AAA. Cotton, wheat and corn prices doubled in three years. Despite farmers' feelings about accepting government subsidies, farmers overwhelmingly approved of the program. The Supreme Court declared the AAA unconstitutional in 1936 and the Roosevelt administration repackaged the subsidies as incentives for soil conservation and other environmental programs.

#### Mark's journey -

In September of 1929, Mark left Nebraska with two wagons, heading for Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota to farm near his brothers, Roy and George. Annie and their daughter Evelyn (one month old) followed by train to Marshall, Minnesota in November 1929. The following are his letters to Annie while on his trip.

#### Sept 22, 1929, Elgin, Nebraska

Dear Annie, How are you tonight. I am feeling fine. I am camping by the side of the road 16 miles southwest of Elgin. The roads have been awfull sandy so far. The wagons seem to pull awfull hard on account of sand. I had pretty good road from Ericson to Bartlett. From Bartlett on this way they have been awfull sandy and hilly. Babcocks dog is with me. I seen Clarance White in Ericson and he said he got the potatoes and paid you for them. It is a hard job to get water and hay for the horses along the road. Saturday night I camped on a school ground.

There was a well there so I had a snak, stole three buckets of corn and a sweep load of hay. Some times I will have to carry hay a long ways. It is 31 miles from Bartlett to Elgin. I will be in Elgin about noon on Monday. I think I will try to go from Elgin to Norfolk. Then take no. 8 straight north to Yankton. That's the way Roys came down. Well its nine bells. Guess I better quite. I will have to grease the wagons in the morning.

Good by Annie dear from Mark Fairchild

Sept 24, 1929, Meadow Grove, Neb *Dear Annie*,

Just a line while the horses eat. It is now one fifteen. I am one mile north of town by a little creek. Just got the cream cans filled with water. I shaved last night. I was getting pretty shaggy. I didn't have any hay for the horses but got up at 12 o'clock at night and stole some oats from a straw pile screenings and give them. They get all the corn they want. From Elgin last corn is the best I ever saw. I am sure it would make 60 or 65 bushels. I went to far north to hit Norfolk so will go across to Pierce 11 miles north and 11 east of Meadow Grove. The trip has cost me \$.90 so far. I went in swimming today in the creek. Water was pretty cold.

Wednesday morning - not much news, saw some good cenery along the Elkhorn River yesterday, high bluffs and oak trees with all colors of leaves. Just finished eating breakfast. Not much news. I run over Babcocks dog with wagon yesterday, he feels pretty bad. I took two pictures where I camped Tues. Well it is time to move so will stop.

Your loving Mark

The Journey will continue next month...stay tuned.





Cuts - Men & Women, Perms, Colors

#### Doyle Bekaert



Doyle Bekaert of Sioux Falls SD passed away on May 19, 2024, at the Avera Hospital in Sioux Falls. He was born September 26, 1956, to Ray and Marlene Bekaert of Gary, SD. Doyle grew up and attended school in Gary, graduating with the Class of 1975 from Gary High School. Following graduation, he began driving truck over the road. He is survived by his mother, Marlene, and brothers, Bill, Gene, and Galen. He was preceded in death by his father, Raymond. At his request, no funeral services were held.

#### Warren "Corky" Richie



December 12, 1935 - July 12, 2024

Funeral services for "Corky" Richie, 88 of Mobridge, SD were held on Thursday, July 25, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mobridge at 11:00 am. A Celebration of Life was held on July 27 from 2-4:00 pm at the Clear Lake Community Center, Clear Lake, SD. Corky died on July 12, 2024, at the Mobridge Regional Hospital.

Warren Bryce Richie (Corky) of Mobridge, SD, was born December 12, 1935, in Dubuque, Iowa, to Bryce and Florence (Warren) Richie. Corky had one sister, Sharon Richie Oberaigner, who was two years younger than him. When he was 6 years old, he moved with his parents and sister to Minneapolis, MN. He purchased his first horse with the money he earned by working hard at several jobs. While his classmates spent their time in school sports, Corky spent his time before and after school at the arena with his horse where he learned to be a "cowboy." Corky joined the Air National Guard located in So. St. Paul in July of 1958 and was honorably discharged in 1964.

He met his first love, Lucille Engeseth, and they married on November 21, 1959. Three children were born of this union. During that time, Corky continued to work construction and joined the RCA rodeo association. Corky broke the arena record for steer wrestling at the Crystal Springs Rodeo near Clear Lake in 1973 with a time of 3.8 seconds. That record stood for 25 years.

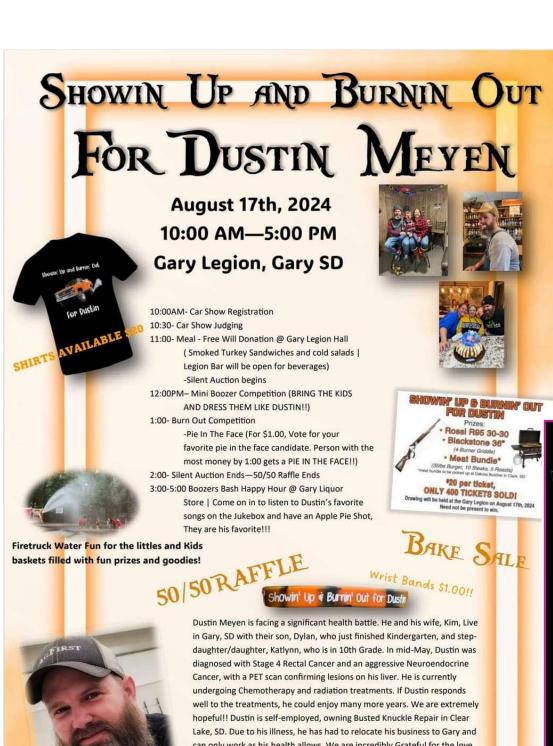
Lucille passed in 1975 from breast cancer. Corky stayed on the ranch, raising his three children, doing construction, and following his passion for rodeo. In 1979, Corky met Sharon Grunewaldt Bethke of Clear Lake, SD, who was a single mom with four daughters, still at home. They were married on October 3, 1980, where they blended their families and continued to live on the ranch near Tunnerville. Corky spent many a summer evening helping young people who were in 4-H and high school rodeo practice. He was on the rodeo board of 4-H and High School rodeo in Watertown, SD. Through a friend, he came out west where he met lifelong friends and other cowboys in the area.

Corky and Sharon started Richie Livestock Equipment, Inc, in 1983, with two friends from MN. He designed the pens and alleys for the veterinary services. The booth at the SD state fair was introducing people to the benefits of the equipment and over the years became a gathering place for rodeo friends, customers, family, and anyone who needed a spot to rest, get a cup of coffee, or a bottle of cold water. Corky didn't like crowds, but once you knew him, he could spend hours talking about rodeo, ranching, cattle, hunting, or his family. He was a skilled farrier and trimmed and shoed his own horses. Corky also had become an auctioneer.

He always looked forward to branding and hunting seasons. His retirement years were spent in Mobridge, SD, where he and Sharon moved to in September of 2019. He was a member of the Burger King coffee group and spent hours on the Bickel ranch, riding the beautiful pastures with his grandchildren. He took his last ride on Newt, on October 18, 2023, and attended his last branding that year as well, roping and pulling calves to the branding pot. He also enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren and great-grands. He attended many various activities and was always up for a card or board game. Cork was a private man with a deep faith in the Lord and lived his life according to the cowboy code. He was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Mobridge.

Corky is survived by his wife of over 43 years, Sharon, and his children - Laurie (Bill) Bickel of Trail City, SD; Leslie (Keith) Reuer of Reliance, SD; Jason (Leslie) of Bristol, SD; Vickie (Nick) Vigna of Phoenix, Az; Lee(Pam) Bethke of Baltic, SD; Lisa (Jim) Heyn of Watertown, SD; Robyn (Rob) Frease of Clear Lake, SD; Melody (Vin) Perry of Bancroft, SD; 22 grandchildren, and 19 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lucille Richie, daughter Michelle Bethke, son Rick Bethke, his parents Bryce and Florence Richie, his sister Sharon Oberaigner, Walter and Retha Grunewaldt of Ethan, SD, Wilma Grunewaldt of Mitchell, numerous aunts and uncles, and most recently his Corgi, Skye.

In lieu of flowers, donations are preferred to Youth Rodeo in care of the Richie Family.



can only work as his health allows. We are incredibly Grateful for the love and support that Dustin, Kim and their family have received during this challenging period. Your prayers, kindness and support are deeply appreciated. Thank you for standing with the Meyen Family during this difficult time. Dustin Meyen-Benefit @Dustin-Meyen-Benefit

If you would like to donate items to the silent auction, help volunteer the day of or be a monetary sponsor, please reach out to any of the following Committee Members: Lesa Darling, Lori Gage, Nikki Giese, Tina Moeller, Darwyn Engesser, Jerry Tongen. Sponsorships will need to be in by July 27th to be listed on the banner. Silent Auction items can be left at the Gary Bar, Viessman Trucking or a committee member. If you have purchased a wrist band prior to the Benefit, please be sure to wear them to get entered into a drawing!



Monetary donations, T-Shirt and wristband purchases can be paid via Venmo. T-Shirt order forms can be found on the FB page "Showin' Up and Burnin' Out For Dustin'

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If you have any story ideas or questions pertaining to the Gary area that could develop into an article, feel free to email them to <a href="mailto:ghainterstate@gmail.com">ghainterstate@gmail.com</a>.