Sept



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*Gary Historical Association**

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2024

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The New Deal

Gary (605)272-5233

In the July issue, I touched on the New Deal programs that built bridges and roads in the state in the years of 1933-1938. I had learned about Roosevelt and these programs only fleetingly in my American History and Government classes in high school but there is so much more to learn. As the farming community was already in a 'depression' in the 1920's and then came the drought and Dust Bowl along with bank failures of the 1930's, the New Deal programs were a literal life saver for the farm communities of this area. By December of 1934, 987 Deuel County families were on the relief rolls at a cost of \$26,119.31 for work relief and direct relief. Commodities such as smoked pork, rice, apples, butter, flour, beef, lard, cereals, eggs, veal and pork were also distributed as well as animal feedstuffs. All persons on relief were required to have a subsistence garden.

The Civilian Conservations Corps (CCC) was a voluntary program that ran from 1933 to 1942 for unemployed, unmarried young men between 17 and 28 years of age. The program offered manual labor jobs in conservation and development of public lands. The work was in forestry, prevention of soil erosion, flood control and such. The CCC provided the young men with housing, clothing, food and medical care, as well as some education. It provided relief to families as \$25 of their \$30 monthly wage had to be sent home to their families. The goal of the CCC was to retore morale in a time of 25% unemployment for all men and higher rates for poorly educated younger men. Most people would refuse relief as charity but would accept any job made available. The men were required to serve a six-month period with the option to serve up to two years if outside employment was not possible. The program tried to "build better men" who would be economically independent and self-supporting. Separate programs were operated for veterans and Native Americans. Later there was a similar program for unemployed women called the She-She She Camps. By the time our country became involved in World War II, the need for work relief decreased and Congress ended the program. More than 27,000 men served in the CCC in South Dakota, mainly in the Black Hills. They built dams, roads, fences, bridges and campgrounds. As I read through the issues of the Gary Interstate from the 1930's, I find the following names of local men who went to work in the CCC camps- Freddie and Harry Meyer, Eddie Schutjer, Donald Roske, Dan and Howard Eakins, Buster Stellmacher, Allan Eikamp, Byron Cochrane, Fred Stangeland, George and Victor Huffman, Ernest Schuttler, James McPeek. I'm sure there are many more.

The Civil Works Administration (CWA) was an emergency job creation program that only operated from 1933-1934. The goal was to quickly create temporary manual jobs for millions of unemployed workers for the duration of the hard winter. The CWA created construction jobs,

Fairchild Farmgirl

Fall Fun

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The Journey Continued

Mark Fairchild

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improving or constructing buildings and bridges. "Give a man a dole and you save his body and destroy his spirit. Give him a job and you save both body and spirit." – Harry Hopkins, Administrator of the CWA.

Superintendent of the State School for the Blind in SD, Otis Rule applied in January of 1934 for a CWA project to enlarge the body of water (known as Lake Elsie) at the dam in the State School grounds. Lake Elsie was greatly enlarged to three times its original size. The dam was built in 1920 and was washed out twice shortly after being built. The soil removed from the lakebed was used to improve the nearby ball field and the adjoining tourist grounds. The project included riprap and stairs to the lake to protect the shoreline.



Two separate picnic areas were created, and the gazebo was moved from the south lawn of the campus to the shore of the lake. The project created jobs for 25 men with 7 teams and was completed in May of 1934. It took 4 days and nine hours to refill Lake Elsie before the Lac Qui Parle River went over the dam and on

into Minnesota. Other projects at the State School included sidewalks on the south side which created jobs for 12 men and a 250' long drainage ditch in the pasture on the east side of the campus.

The Civil Works Administration also funded teaching positions for unemployed teachers. Adult classes in English Grammar, Commercial Law, and Bookkeeping and typing were offered. Funds were available for school building repairs and updates to the buildings, furnishings, and playgrounds and for modernization of sanitary facilities. The Gary Waterworks project was approved for the amount of \$5000. This was for building the municipal water tower. The Grandview Cemetery project employed 15 men for grading, beautifying and laying driveways.

The Works Projects Administration (WPA) was the most famous of all of Roosevelt's New Deal Programs because it impacted so many lives. It provided jobs for more than 8,500.000 people who earned an average salary of \$41.57 a week. It superseded the dissolved Federal Emergency Relief Administration which had included the CWA. Direct relief assistance was permanently replaced by a national work relief program. The work relief program was more expensive than direct relief payments but would preserve the workers' skills as well as their self-respect. WPA projects included roads, bridges, public buildings (schools and court houses), parks and airports. It also included the Federal Arts Project, the Federal Writers' Project, the Federal Theater Project, and the Federal Music Project – to provide work for unemployed artists and writers. The Writers' Project included the Slave Narrative Collection, a collection of histories of formerly enslaved people. In 1940, the projects became geared toward preparations for the impending war. WPA cost the government more than \$11 million before it was cancelled in 1942. Federal funds were diverted for national defense projects and operations in most states ended in February of 1943.

Fairchild Farmgirl

Well friends I had to look at the date on my computer screen tonight and was floored that were already a week and a day into September. I know were here, but it's crazy is it not? One minute were chillaxin with the kids having a bonfire or reading a book, then the next minute were getting everyone on the road to school and getting a load of laundry before I head out to sub for a different school with a literal jug of coffee. Oh and Ron is out working or doing something for our farm.

September is like Christmas. You know it's coming with all the commitments and everything but until it's a week before its hitting, you're just hanging out and BAM! It hits you like a bus.

A school bus. This year, we have a senior, a junior, a sophomore, a freshman and a 6th grader. We just sent Grace back for her second year of college. Right now, we're knee deep in watching the boys play football, going to Tedd's practices, I'm subbing for Deuel, CCD starts this month in Clear Lake for us, and Ron's getting ready to help in harvest. I'm also gearing up for a monster of a 4 quarter in my business. And would you believe we entertained the idea of another foreign exchange student? My kids want another one, and I kind of did for a hot minute. Then the first week of school hit and I now know better. Not with my schedule...maybe next year.

Also, I'm hitting the Minnesota public library system pretty hard with my needle felting classes. Shoutout to the Worthington Library where we had a full class and some fun ladies had joined who read this column. What a ball! This month I only have one library (Lamberton) but then I have ten in October. So much fun! I sure have met some wonderful people. If you'd like to have a class for a library, a group you belong to or a work team building/fun day, get a hold of me. We have fun.

Other than that, were trying to get the summer/fall work done around the house and farm. This past weekend we scraped paint on the porch and balcony and finished painting the first level porch. If you're familiar with an "American Foursquare", then you know our house. It's a big one with an upper balcony that sits over a large porch. It's neat upstairs on the balcony because there's a great view of the farm, but as I was scraping the ceiling of it, I have to say the thought crossed my mind about having someone else paint it. It's scary up there and I'm not a heights person and neither are 4 of the 6 kids that are here. Levi being the natural born dare devil, was finally offered \$150 to paint it.

GATE CITY GENERAL A little bit of everything... Monday - Saturday 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Sunday 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Grocery * Hardware * Gifts 227 1st Ave. * RO. Box 25 * Gary, SD 57237 * 605-272-5779 www.facebook.com/GateCityGeneral * GateCityGeneral@gmail.com

He was interested, but were still in the scraping phase however and that kid...he was sitting on the railing, hanging out trying to scrape the outer edge of the roof that's painted. I couldn't look anymore, so I went downstairs to make dinner. I also reminded him that the ground doesn't forgive if he fell. In my mind I see someone else doing it, you know, a professional that has a harness or

something other than the luck that my kid thinks he has an endless supply of.

One more exciting thing, they should be finishing up my wool at the mill so I can FINALLY get some dryer balls, and kits in bulk made. The most wool I've ever sent out is about 200 pounds and got 150 pounds back. But now this, twelve hundred pounds plus or minus went to the scouring plant in May. Five hundred ninety-two pounds got sent from the plant in Texas to mill in Wisconsin. I'm super curious to see the pounds I get back and just to see all that wool into roving is going to be crazy. Also...I need to figure out how it's getting back here. Ron's hinting about going to pick it up...that may be another story for you next month. Stay tuned!

Until next time, Fairchild "that'll be a lotta dryerballs, you betchya!" Farmgirl

The Journey Continued

Yankton, S.D. Sept 28, 1929

Dear Annie

How are you by this time. Fine I hope. I am alright to. I am about 15 miles north of Yankton a nice country around here. I got to Yankton Friday at 4:30 oclock. I got the horses shod and left town about six, drove out 2 miles and camped in a stubble field. It cost \$1,20 to cross the bridge. It sure is some bridge the highest I was ever on. The horses don't give me any trouble at all. It is 95 miles from Yankton to Madison, S.D. If everything does good I should be at Roys next Sunday. The next town I hit will be Freeman 33 miles from Ynkton north. Well guess this is all for now. Good by Annie, Mark Sunday morning 7 miles south of Freemen. It is raining here this morning. The clouds look pretty heavy. It started raining about 5 this morning.

Sunday noon. Well it cleared off nice. This forenoon is nice and warm now. There are lots of rocks here in the fields. All for this time.

Good by Annie from Mark.

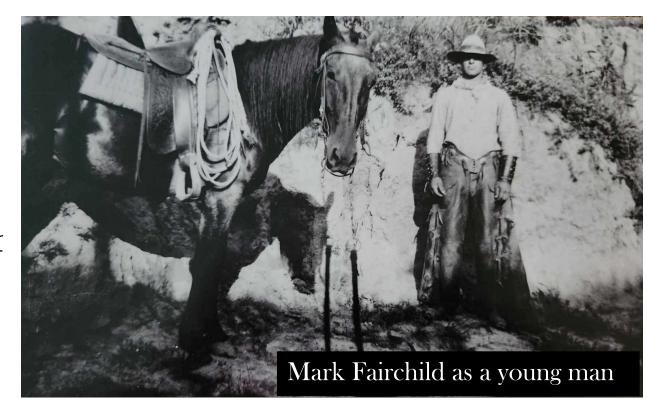
(Postcard written to Mrs. Mark Fairchild, Burwell, NE; postmarked Oct 3; received Oct 4)

Madison, S.D. Oct 1, 1929

Dear Annie

Just a line tonight, I am 4 mile north of Madison. I drove 21 miles today, the horses are getting tired of this trip and so am I. Think I will get there before Sunday. I am 97 miles from Yankton. The next towns are Brookings, Clear Lake and Canby.

Good by, Mark Fairchild



more on page 6

Back to School

Every year since the Jr. Auxiliary started decorating the windows at the General Store, the September window is reserved for back to school. Gary's American Legion Post 109 Junior Auxiliary has members from Canby, Deuel, and Minneota schools, and they are all represented in the windows. This year Camdyn and Lauryn did the back-to-school window mid-August because both Deuel and Minneota start school before Labor Day.



Deuel started on August 13th and Minneota starting August 19th. Canby, which waits until after Labor Day to kick off the school year, just started on September 3rd.



A Look Back...

100 years ago, September 1924

Most grain is being threshed not stacked

Wednesday is Gary Day at Deuel County Fair

Old landmark of Gary to be demolished

(wooden building east of Greene block)

Births: Boys to Mr. & Mrs. Lee Heaton
Mr. & Mrs. Luther Millhouse

Marriage: Ida Markegaard & Edward Hinsvark

Death: Sam Forbes

75 years ago, September 1949

Neighbors plow for Joe Cullinan who is suffering from pneumonia.

School opens Tuesday, September 6 Roy Gilbertson assumes duties as railway agent

Births: Boys to Mr. & Mrs. John Heiney Mr. & Mrs. Walter Miller Girl to Mr. & Mrs. Fred Stangeland

Marriages: LaMorne Benner & William Wiest Katherine McLain & Clarence Bindert Berniece Schaefer & Richard Bindert

Death: Mrs. Josephine Webber

Auction: Jack Petersen

50 years ago, September 1974

Gary Interstate starts 97th year of publication Craft day held on "How to make a centennial plate"

New teachers: Larry Oostra, Willis Nelson, and John Annet

Gary Historical makes plans for Buffalo Supper to be held in October

Fire calls: John Louwagie, Jim Thomas, and Don Grabow

Marvin Kunde kicked by cow, fractures leg Births: Boys to Mr. & Mrs. Randall Jacobsen

> Mr. & Mrs. Roger Baer Girl to Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Gage

Marriage: Janice Lorenzen & Francis Remerowski

Death: Hans C. Anderson

25 years ago, September 1999

Tim Miller completes 20yrs in the Nat'l Guard Gary and Deuel County are Y2K ready Gary Ladies': Champions of NE Slow Pitch

Marriage: Kim Kunde & Rusty Condra

Page Death: Greg Theisen

Still Journeying

Canby, Minn Oct 5, 1929

Dear Annie

PS (the trip cost me \$20.00)

Well I arrived here at Roy Friday night just before dark. Roys had gone to Canby tonight so now I can write a little letter to you. The horses ganted up quite a bit the last three days but they stood the trip better than they thought I would. We worked all the fournoon fixing a place for them in the hog shed. It is a good place for them and then we unloaded the wagons after dinner and then go to picking corn. The dogs are so lame they cant hardly walk. They have been sleeping most all the time today. I traded billy off at Elgin Neb for a 7 year old gelding, nice and gentle. His name is Pat. But our horses look like suckling colts by the side of Roys big fat slick horses. We used my new box to pick corn in today and one front tire came clear off. The buss goes by here everyday. We could go to clear to Minneapolis on it right from our door. I haven't seen the man that lives on our place but they call him soup bones because he is so poor and skinny. Well don't know any news so will close for now.

Good by sweetheart, Mark Fairchild

Canby, Minn Oct 14, 1929

Dear Annie

Well I have waited to long to write but we are busy all the time. We went up to George's Sunday and I was going to write you a letter when we came back but there was company here when we came so I could not write. How is the big girl. Glad to here everything is alright. I hope you get along fine all the time. We have the plowing all done now, just finished today noon. George has quit working in Appleton and has been in Dakota thrashing for about 3 weeks. He just got back. I have a husking job on our place. I will get 10 cents and use my own team and wagon and board here at Roys. There has been 2 or 3 different ones here after me to work for them already. Etta will be glad to see you. Roy and I have been working as a calf shed with poles on the roof and straw around the sides and over the top. I guess we will start husking corn pretty soon. It rained here three days last week and the fields are quit wet. The corn is not drying very fast because it has been so wet. I am going to by a cream separator from George, a small size DeLaval for \$10.00. It is all good but the spindle needs to be new. Roy got a bushel of carrots and 1 bushel of beets and 2 bushels of beggies from George and the cellar is full of potatoes so I guess will all have plenty to eat. Has the baby got any hair on her head. What it the color of her eyes. Is she still a good girl. Have you had any collers yet. How are Bursons and Dobies. Hope they don't have to much trouble. Do Bursons like cram as well as smith. Well I am out of news so will close for this time.

Good by Annie from Mark

(Postcard written to Mrs. Mark Fairchild, Burwell, NE; Postmarked October 22, 1929) Canby, Minn Oct 21, 1929

Dear Annie

Just a line tonight in answer to your letter. It acts rainy here to night. Horace and Easter have gone to Canby tonight. I have picker 239 bushels of corn. I will finish a 12

acre field in one more hald day. The fellow I am working for has been picking some to. Etta has been helping Roy pick part of the time. Hope it don't rain tonight.

Good by, Mark

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

Class of 1974

The Class of 1974 celebrated their 50th class reunion at the State Line Bar on June 29th. The class graduated 11 and 8 attended. Missing were Paula Bindert -Thiesen (absent), Faye Bailey (absent), and Beverly Peterson -Kenyon (deceased).

Ken and Keith even wore the Gary BB team warm-up jackets that Lee Nelson bought at the school auction and gave to them.





Pictured Left to Right: Ken Koerlin (Ft. Collins, CO), Sharon Helmberger-Kloos (Gary, SD), Keith Koerlin (Granite Falls, MN), Mary Jo Dwinell-Olson (Vermillion, SD), Julene Norton-Kaiser (Gary, SD), Mike Nosbush (Gary, SD), Steve Fritz (Custer,

The Gary Givers WHE TACK 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





Cuts - Men & Women, Perms, Colors

Lynn Pederson



September 16, 1943 -August 20, 2024

Lynn Pederson, age 80, of Gary, SD, passed away Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at the Sylvan Court Nursing Home in Canby, MN. Funeral service were held on Friday, August 30, 2024, at the First Ev. Lutheran Church in Gary, SD with Rev. Bruce Mueller officiating. Burial was in the Grandview Cemetery in Gary. Visitation was 5 - 7 pm Thursday, August 29th at the Houseman Funeral Home in Clear Lake, SD and resumed Friday one hour prior to the service at the church.

Lynn Gordon Pederson was born September 16, 1943, to Jens and Verna (Kjelden) Pederson. He was raised on a farm near Gary, attended Country School Dist. #57, and graduated from Gary High School in 1961. He married Jeanine (Jeanie) Brevik, his high school sweetheart, on March 20, 1965. They lived in Sioux Falls, and then moved to a farm less than a

mile away from the farm he grew up on in 1967. They had three children – Laura, Jay, and Jennifer – and in addition to farming, they ran a dairy and raised cows, sheep, horses, and a variety of other animals. Lynn farmed with and drove his horses and mules in parades, horse pulls, weddings, and funerals. He enjoyed working with his family and playing with his grandchildren, especially hosting a horse camp for them.

He attended college for 2½ years at South Dakota State University, the University of Minnesota, and South Dakota School of Mines & Technology. He worked as an apprentice at Behren's Mortuary in Rapid City, as a guard at the South Dakota State Penitentiary in Sioux Falls, and then farmed near Gary for 19 years until he was elected sheriff of Deuel County. As sheriff, he served from 1986 until he retired in 2007. He remained retired for four years, during which he drove his mules on the 100th Anniversary Commemorative Trail Ride from Fort Pierre to Deadwood in 2008 and the Casey Tibbs Memorial Ride from Fort Bennett to Fort Pierre in 2009. In 2010, he was elected as a county commissioner and served for eight years in that position. In 2011, Lynn and Jeanie purchased the Gate City General Store in Gary. He liked stopping by the store to help Jen, and he enjoyed visiting with old friends there and making new ones.

Lynn was baptized, confirmed and a lifelong member of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gary, where he served as a Sunday School teacher, an elder, and president over the years. He was instrumental in starting the Gary Rodeo in 1972, serving as the first president and also participating as a contestant for many years. He was an active horse trader for much of his life and a collector of antique horse-drawn machinery and hearses. Some of his finds included a Civil War-era hearse, a wagon used in the movie Dances with Wolves, and a mule that appeared in The Green Mile. His team of mules also appeared in a BBC special on Custer's



Last Stand. He enjoyed his visits to see his Amish friends, and he was an avid reader and a devoted student of the scripture.

He is survived by his children: Laura (Kent) Wipf, Minnetonka, MN; Jay Pederson, Clear Lake, SD; and Jennifer Pederson, Gary, SD; grandchildren: Lindsay (Luis) Guerrero and great-granddaughter Eden, Seville, Spain; Kyle Wipf, San Antonio, TX; Kevin Wipf, Gary, SD; and Lisa Wipf, Minnetonka, MN; siblings: Roger (Delores) Pederson and Ardis Dailey White; adopted siblings: Morris Pederson, Evelyn (Mark) Carter, and Gail Kinzer; sister-in-law Shirley Pederson; and many nieces and nephews.

Lynn was preceded in death by his wife; parents; brothers Ardell Pederson, Randy Pederson, and Jan Pederson; adopted siblings George Pederson and Todd Pederson; and brothers-in-law Tom Dailey and John White.



Thomas J. Law



January 25, 1936 - August 27, 2024

Thomas (Tom) James Law, blessed with a delightful earthly life, took flight on August 27, 2024, to experience an even more joyous heavenly promise.

Tom was born in his parents' home in Clear Lake, S.D. on the bitter cold night of January 25, 1936. Born in the middle of the Dust Bowl and the Great Depression, Tom was fortunate to be the son of loving parents, Thomas H. and Dorothy (Bork) Law. His youth, including grade and high school, were spent in various small S.D. towns. Small schools afforded him an opportunity to participate in all manner of extracurricular activities.

Science was a passion of his and he took both a BS and MS in Microbiology from South Dakota State University. He was also commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army.

In June 1959 he married a beautiful nurse, Sharon (Sharie) Ryan in Sioux Falls, S.D. and to them were born four children, Thomas Kevin (Teri) Law, Leslie (Thomas) Ayres, Scott (Rebecca) Law and Christopher Law. They are also the proud grand and great grandparents of many children.

Following his military experience as a microbiologist creating biological warfare agents, Tom took a position as a Virologist with Eli Lilly and Co. in Indianapolis and during a 31-year career enjoyed many varied assignments. Tom retired in 1993 and together with Sharie, a 1997 Lilly Retiree, they enjoyed many years of world travel, cruises, and countless family get togethers. Their ultimate retirement to The Villages, Florida has afforded them an endless array of activities and friends to occupy their sunset years. Of special interest to Tom was his daily 25-mile bike rides, singing classical country and folk music to the accompaniment of his acoustic guitar and playing a lot of bad golf.

He is survived by his wife, children, grand and great grandchildren as well as his brother David J. and sisters Sharon Gunn and Nancy Reddy.





John (Jack) Arnold Moeller, 88 August 09, 2024

John (Jack) Arnold Moeller passed away peacefully at Lancaster General Hospital on Friday August 9th, 2024, with loved ones by his side. John was born to Arnold and Elinor Moeller in 1936 in Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, and resided on the family farm in Gary, South Dakota. He was the second oldest in the family of six which includes Betty, Dorthy, Bernice, Edward and James. John was married to Marie Ann Moeller nee Chesonis for 63 years before her death in 2021.

John moved away from the family farm after high school to serve in the Air Force, which stationed him from Alaska to Benton Air Force Base in Pennsylvania where he met his future wife, Marie. Upon leaving the Air Force as a radar specialist, he applied to the Federal Aviation Administration to become an air traffic controller, which took him to New York and to New Jersey. He and the family arrived in Lancaster in 1964 to be a part of the inaugural crew at Lancaster Airport Control Tower where he worked until his retirement in 2011. His love for the friends and colleagues at the Tower was a close second to his love of his family.

John and Marie lived in Lancaster since 1964 where they made many friends and improved the community around them. John and Marie advocated for special needs programs in schools and in the community stemming from their shared experiences with Michael's learning disabilities. John was a faithful supporter of Sacred Heart of Jesus which was their home parish by serving as Lay Eucharist Minister, yard work at the convent and as Church council president for several terms. To John, no task was too small nor too big. He did everything not for the accolades, but because it had to be done and done for the community.

John enjoyed traveling and experiencing different cultures, food and drinks from such places like Sweden, Lithuania, France, China and Thailand. As well, he and the family traveled throughout the US to see the splendors of national parks, ocean byways, and amusements great and small. His favorite was his family condo in Ocean City, Maryland where he would watch sunsets over the inlet and the jets buzzing over during the annual Air Show.

His first love and unwavering duty was to his family. John had four surviving children. John Moeller Jr of Lancaster, PA husband to Yati Moeller; Stephanie Bernstein of Lititz, PA, fiancé to Thomas Dudas; Bryon Moeller of Lancaster, PA husband to Chau (Meeky) Moeller; and Tim Moeller of Ellicott City, MD husband to Kim Moeller. He was preceded in death by his loving son, Michael Moeller of Lancaster, PA husband to Pamela Moeller. He also had 13 adoring grandchildren, Ally and Zachary (Moeller), Jia and Mei (Bernstein),

Ian and Drew (Moeller), Josiah, husband to Reagan, Andrew, Jesse, Melody, Clayton, Evan and Joel (Moeller) as well as many nieces and nephews.

John's smile, gregarious laugh, love for life, fine food and friendship made him beloved by all who were blessed to meet him. The party is not over, just moved to a new location.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held at 11AM on Monday, August 19, 2024, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 558 W. Walnut St, Lancaster, PA 17603. Interment followed in St. Joseph's New Catholic Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in John's memory may be made to Tunnels to Towers Foundation (https://t2t.org/).

GARY HAPPENINGS









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Gary, SD

BINGO 1:30 PM
10 Games + Blackout Round

Book - \$10
10 games per book

Blackout Card - \$5
First to Blackout wins!

The 109 Club will be serving meals on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month. Any updates to that schedule will be posted on Facebook on the <u>Gary American Legion Dance Hall</u> page.

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It is loaded with interesting information, including, Bill Stone's book at:

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

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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 ghainterstate@gmail.com.