

May

THE GARY INTERSTATE

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

A Monthly Insight into news of the past and present

2025



Gary (605)272-5233

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Lest We Forget

*They answered the call
With mighty hearts, they took a stand
In the pursuit of liberty
They died on foreign land.*

*Those that made it home
Carry a burden within their soul
More years behind them now
Yet stories remain untold.*

*We may never understand it
Few hearts can comprehend*

*The courage one must possess
To rise and take a stand.*

*So I ask of you this
Dear friends and family
How will you remember
This most earnest legacy?*

*Will you bow your head in silence?
Offer a silent prayer?*

*Let's honour all they've sacrificed
For the freedoms we hold dear.*

-Natalie Ducey-

— Forever Young —

Memorial Day- a day of remembrance for those men and women who have given their lives in service to our country. This Memorial Day we remember PFC. Bruce H. Lytle, who fell in battle in France during World War II.

"Bruce Lytle was a good-looking, short, dark complexioned, blue-eyed guy of about 5'8". He was from South Dakota, and he was married. He and I were good friends. He was quiet and not real



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Someone Likes Banks

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Memorial Day

We Remember

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talkative. Bruce was killed in Normandy. I remember we had to cross a small field under machine gun fire. I got across and looked back and there were many guys down on the ground.

At first, I thought they had dropped to the ground to escape the gunfire, and I yelled to come on, but then, realization came to me that they either were injured or dead. Bruce Lytle, my good buddy and co-explorer, was dead. Bruce was one of those shot when he crossed this field." - Lawrence Wilson Hays, who served with Bruce and wrote this in an autobiography compiled by his niece Kay McConathy Murray.



Men of the 90th Division, Company I of the 359th Regiment, who were part of the invasion of Normandy at Utah Beach. They are: Back row: Harbus, Lytle, Nelson, Everett, Severin and Stinley Front row: Chaffee, Hays and Ed Leckner.

The invasion of Normandy took place on June 6, 1944. Allied troops launched a massive landing of nearly 160,000 troops on the beaches of Normandy. The battle resulted in significant casualties on both sides, with the Allies suffering heavy losses, especially during the initial landings on Omaha Beach. The Battle of Normandy culminated with the liberation of Paris in late August. It was a major turning point in World War II.

Bruce Howard Lytle was born at Gary, South Dakota on March 14, 1920, to William and Dora Lytle. He attended rural schools and two years of high school before leaving school. He was farming with his father northwest of Gary in Glenwood Township when he enlisted in the Army on April 1, 1942. He was married to Lucille Hall on October 26, 1942, in Taylor, TX and their son, Bruce William, was born in South Dakota on May 26, 1944. PFC Bruce H. Lytle died in battle in Normandy, France on July 4, 1944. His remains were returned from France for interment in Grandview Cemetery on May 23, 1948.

The Gary Methodist church was well filled Sunday afternoon for the military funeral and burial service of Pfc. Bruce Lytle, whose body had been brought from France to America for interment at the Gary cemetery.

Rev. Albert Hartt spoke at the funeral service, and Maynard Cochrane sang two selections, Mrs. D. C. Gould being pianist.

The members of the Peden-Cole post of the American Legion were in charge of the colors, firing squad, and Donald Eng sounded Taps.

Bruce, a son of Mrs. Dora Lytle of St. Paul, former Gary residents, was a victim of war in France on July 4, 1944.

The Legion color bearers were Dale Kluckman and Elmer Hinsvark and color guards were Sunny Hinsvark and Aloysius Miller. The firing squad was composed of Louie F. Lehnertz, Francis Schuttler, Bud Anderson, Arnold Stefferud, Roy Norton, Bud Jesme, Robert Giese, Darold Heimberger, and Harry Eugene Schulte, sergeant.

The pallbearers were Grant Snyder, I. M. "Ding" Hinsvark, Chris Lovaaas, Donald Sheehan, George Meinberg, and Lee Volk, all of Gary.

100 years ago, May 1925

Senior class to present "Fifty-Fifty"
 Bobbie Bartels seriously injured in fall
 off bicycle
 AW Bartels elected mayor
 Chas. Kunow sells barbershop to Fred
 Gully
 Birth: Girl to Mr. & Mrs. JE King
 Death: Sophia Carlson – Mrs. Ole
 Benson

75 years ago, May 1950

Gary seniors to present "Spooky
 Junction"
 Senior graduates, 5 girls and 3 boys
 Fires at Henry Hauger's and a hay pile
 at CR Thomas's
 Two Gary residents found dead
 8th grade graduation May 22nd
 Senior Who's Who – Harvey Limberg,
 JoAnn Mortensen, Betty Nuteson, and
 Sylvia Severson
 Births: Girls to Mr. & Mrs. Robert
 Roark

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Westpahl
 Boys to Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Carlson
 Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Bindert
 Deaths: Mr. & Mrs. Judd Kenyon
 Auction – Mrs. Loretta Weidenbach

50 years ago, May 1975

Ginger Wiese represents Gary High at
 Regional High School Rodeo
 Gary Legion fires replica shot to
 commemorate U.S. 200th Anniversary
 Fire destroys Walt Hundtermark barn
 Birth: Girl to Mr. & Mrs. John Jensen
 Marriage: Julene Norton & Leon Kaiser

25 years ago, May 2000

Michael Bekaert named District
 Legionnaire of the Year
 Gary Post Office participates in food
 drive
 Poppy Day May 20th
 Marriages: Shirley Poppen & Leslie
 Gage – Mary Burkman & Mike
 Nosbush
 Death: Hilda Rehder

Thank You from Marion

A most sincere thank you to the many friends, neighbors and relatives for your attendance, cards, gifts, phone calls, etc. who remembered me on my special 95th Birthday. A very special thank you to Nicole Taylor Denekamp for masterminding the beautiful celebration with vases of flowers, balloons, birthday cake, munchies, 95th birthday board, proclamation, and inviting the Larry Olsen Band. Also, special thanks to Joni Kjelden for assisting Nicole and to all at the American Legion Ballroom in Gary, SD.

An awesome everlasting memory.

With love,

Marion Denekamp

**Interesting things are discovered when I get handed a photo or an artifact from Gary's history.*

This photo below came from the Lund Hoel House collection at MECCA - the Museum Encompassing Canby Community Area in Canby, MN. Let's see what I have discovered.

The First National Bank

The First National Bank of Gary, South Dakota was organized on March 1, 1909 and chartered on April 19, 1909. It succeeded the State Bank of Gary and opened for business on May 5, 1909. Another bank, the National Bank of Gary, South Dakota, had been organized as a conversion of the existing earlier Exchange Bank and was operating between 1916 and 1931



Photo circa 1915

BANK OF GARY, SD - Interior
William Bakins- seated; Ernest Lewison
standing

when it was absorbed by the First National Bank. The First National Bank went into conservatorship on March 24, 1933 and then into receivership on December 11, 1933. It did not reopen.

The first president of the First National Bank of Gary was John Swenson, a very influential man in the Canby area. He served as president from 1909 until 1913. Other presidents were John A. Thronson 1914-1922, Samuel Lewison 1923-1930, and Daniel Torkelson Beiningen 1931-1932. The cashiers were Theordore Michael Antony 1909-1914, Ernest Bismark Lewison

1915-1917, and Fred Elmer Ovrom 1918-1932. Note about John Swenson: he was involved with early banks in Dawson, Hendricks, Ivanhoe, Minneota, Canby, Porter, St. Leo and Madison MN as well as Toronto, Clear Lake and Gary SD to name just a few.

The National Banking Act of 1863 and 1864 aimed to create a stable banking system with a uniform national currency of bank notes backed by government bonds.

Key reasons for the establishment of national bank charters were-

1. Financing the Civil War and raising money for the Union Army by requiring the national banks to purchase government bonds.
2. Establishing a stable banking system with uniform rules and supervision by the Federal government.
3. Economic growth - by providing a reliable banking system and stable currency, it would support economic growth and development.
4. Preempting state laws - National banks operating under federal laws would take precedence over state laws. This would benefit banks with operations in several states as it minimized the impact of varying state regulations.



Photo dated 1911 - The building with the arches is the First National Bank before it was torn down and rebuilt in 1917. Today, it is the home of Rob's Locker and Catering and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places due to its architectural significance.



Notice the signature of T.M. Antony and the signature stamp of John Swenson. This bank note was known as a Series 1902 Date Back. These large notes measured $7 \frac{3}{8}$ by $3 \frac{1}{8}$ inches - quite a difference to today's bills that measure 6.14 inches in length and 2.61 inches in width, about 25% smaller. The large bank notes were known for their extensive artwork and designs.

A New Home.

The First National Bank will commence the erection of a new building on July first. The building now occupied by the bank will be torn down and a new one erected.

The new building will be 24x63 feet in size, with a 14 foot ceiling. The material used will be fireproof brick and Bedford stone. The entrance will be in the center with plenty of lobby room, and fine spacious rooms in the rear. A full basement will be under the building, and a heating plant installed. The vault will extend from the basement, and there will be vault room below for the safe keeping of papers.

The building is to be completed in ninety days, and while the work is in progress the bank will occupy quarters in the Gary Investment Company's building. The building will be a handsome and modern structure. A Mossman & Co. of St. Paul, are the builders.

The officers were Anton Walden, Pres.; S.R. Law, V. Pres.; E.L. Lohr, Cashier; and John E. Thaelke, Asst. Cashier. It sat on the corner of first Ave. and Coteau St. for many years (where the Wells Store had been located prior to the 1908 fire) and moved to its new location across the street in 1982. The bank was purchased by the **Security State Bank** of Madison, SD in January of 1992. On January 2, 1996 it became a branch of **Deuel County National Bank** of Clear Lake, later known as **DNB National Bank**.

Early Gary, South Dakota banks –

The first bank in Deuel County was the **Deuel County Bank** in Gary, established in 1880 with Irving A. Sibley as President and C.L. Shelly as Cashier. It sat where the Odd Fellows building was later constructed.

The **Bank of Gary**, the second bank in our town, was established in 1884 by Benjamin A. and Newton M. Wade, both early doctors in the community. It sat on the east side of Coteau Street and was burned in the 1908 fire.

The **Exchange Bank** was formed in 1891 by A.L. Houghton, Ashley Houghton, Lottie Houghton, and others. It became the **National Bank of Gary, South Dakota** in 1916 and was later absorbed by the **First National Bank** in 1931.

State Bank of Gary - started by J.G. Lund in 1901. It became the **First National Bank** in 1909.

The **Gary State Bank** - was chartered on January 2, 1945.

June 22, 1917, Gary Interstate,
Rebuilding the First National Bank

First National Bank.

As all other lines of business increase, and as the farmers come to use the banks more and more, the State Bank of Gary has found it to be necessary to also increase its facilities, and with this end in view was, Wednesday morning transformed into a National bank. The capital stock has been increased to \$25,000, and all arrangements are completed for the change. The officers will remain the same as heretofore.

Fairchild Farmgirl

May is a crazy month when you have school age kiddos. This year we have Tedd leaving the elementary (our last kid in elementary...after 24 straight years of that school). We've had music concerts, wrapping up CCD, I was on the road first part of May and Ron has been busy in the shop. The cherry on top is Rachel is graduating high school and Minnesota West with her two year degree through the PSEO program through Canby Highschool.

We had Rachel's party this past weekend and it was so much fun! She had wanted a baked potato bar and let me tell you, it was a great idea. A hack is getting the potatoes from a local restaurant through their supplier and having the restaurant cook them. We also ordered a lot of our toppings through them as well. So now you know, have a baked potato bar for your kids grad party, it's pretty slick.

This upcoming Friday she graduates high school, but today is Tuesday and she graduates MN West tonight. As I look at the same degree I got from the same school about 20 years ago, I can't help but think back to my MN West graduation. Reminiscing on that walk across the stage, though I was thirty years old with a baby on the way and it was "just a two year degree" I can remember feeling so accomplished. Here I was, an adult who never had much direction as a kid growing up, which in turn led to some crazy early years on my own, was finally doing something good. Something to better myself.

Now it's her turn tonight. Looking over her short 18 years on this earth and what she's accomplished on her terms and how she's always pushed herself; well it's amazing. The thing is, she's never being afraid to do the hard stuff. Before she even turned 16 she was studying for her CNA and got it shortly after her birthday. Last year she decided that she was going to get EMT certified and she went through the training and passed the test a few months ago. She also joined the Marrietta fire department as a volunteer. She's always looking into how she can further herself.

Thinking back, this was the kid that was two years under her sister Grace in school, and every night Grace had 1st grade homework, Rachel would ask me to make copies of Graces worksheets so she could do them too. Wow, Grace would get mad! We'd have many talks about how Rachel wanted to be just like her. In reality, Rachel was just an intellectual sponge that wanted to learn anything and everything that she could.

So this article is for her. Rachel, you make your dad and I so proud. Academics and intellect aside, what you should really be known for is your heart and love for others, no matter what. We're so excited for your future in paramedics. Trust in God and let the rest fall into place.

Until next time,
Fairchild Farmgirl

Gary American Legion Memorial Day Service**May 26, 2025 10:00am****Commander: Bruce Thomas**

**Procession.....Legion Members, Sons of the Legion, Miss Poppies, Flower Girls,
Jr. Auxiliary Members**

Presentation of Colors.....Legion & Sr. Auxiliary Members

The Pledge Of Allegiance.....Assembly

**The National Anthem.....Deuel High School Band
Directed By Paige Bohne**

**The Invocation.....Emma Raml
Jr. Auxiliary Chaplain**

Welcome.....Commander Bruce Thomas

Ragged Old FlagRoxanne Raml

The Gettysburg Address.....Bethanne Hoffmann

Old Glory.....Camdyn Peterreins

In Flanders Field.....Aspen Hoffmann

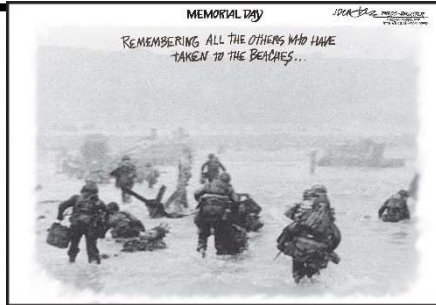
Fallen Soldiers.....Elise Alva

Memorial Day - Forever Remembered.....Lily Swoboda

Participating Sons of the Legion***Ron Olsen*Cooper Raml*Lincoln Raml*Jacob Swoboda******Marlin Bauman***

A POTLUCK DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT THE LEGION HALL FOLLOWING THE CEREMONY

AT THE CEMETARY - EVERYONE IS WELCOME



Beautiful America.....	Deuel High School Band Directed By Paige Bohne
No Freedom Isn't Free.....	Kenzie Reppe
Freedom Of Colors.....	Violet Swoboda
The Ultimate Sacrifice.....	Rose Swoboda
Our Flag.....	Harper Hoffmann
So God Made a Soldier.....	Lauryn Peterreins
America The Beautiful.....	Jr. Auxiliary Members
Address.....	Jeff Cooper, Retired Lt. Colonel, Air Force Reserve
The Closing Prayer.....	Emma Raml Jr. Auxiliary Chaplain
Announcements.....	Commander Bruce Thomas
Retire Of Colors.....	Legion & Sr. Auxiliary
Procession.....	Legion Members, Sons of the Legion, Miss Poppies, Flower Girls, Jr. Auxiliary

Junior Auxiliary

***Roxanne Raml*Emma Raml*Camdyn Peterreins*Lauryn
Peterreins*Bethanne Hoffmann*Harper Hoffmann*Aspen
Hoffmann*Rose Swoboda*Lily Swoboda*Violet Swoboda*Bailey
Hunt*Sadie Hunt*Leah Hunt*Elisa Alva*Kenzie Reppe
Leaders: Melinda Jensen & Katie Hunt**




Gary Community Easter Egg Hunt & Games

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Gary, SD




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Upcoming Schedule:

May 17th – Smoked Pork Chops or Rib Eye
May 31st – BBQ Ribs
June 7th – Prime Rib
June 21st – Smoked Pork Chops or Rib Eye
Jul 3rd – BBQ Pork Sandwich & Burger Bar
Jul 4th – **STREET DANCE – steaks**
Jul 5th – Prime Rib
Jul 19th – Smoked Pork Chops or Rib Eye

*Hamburgers also available

The Gary Givers

FUNDRAISER

**TRACK
THE JACK**

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

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DANCE HALL

Accepting Bookings for

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- ≥ Graduation Parties
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- ≥ Birthday Parties

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