

June



2026

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.com

A Monthly Insight into news of the past and present



Gary (605)272-5233

This paper printed for you by
DNB NATIONAL BANK
Gary and Clear Lake SD
We want to thank them for this service!



Clear Lake (605)874-2191

Reflections on Memorial Day...



On May 25, the American Legion Post 109 family held another impressive Memorial Day program. The Junior Auxiliary guided by Melinda Jenson, performed readings and a vocal music selection with the assistance of the youth Sons of the American Legion and the Deuel High School Choir under the direction of Doug Dyk performed patriotic songs. Retired US Army Lieutenant Colonel Bill Palmer gave the address, sharing some of the oral histories of veterans that he has been collecting and preserving in his writings.



Following the program at the Legion Hall, the assembly continued to Grandview Cemetery with a 21-gun salute and the laying of the wreaths on the crosses signifying the wars our country has been involved in. After the cemetery memorial, the crowd was invited back to the Legion Hall for a community potluck dinner. To watch the 2026 Memorial Day Program go to [Gary American Legion Dance Hall](#) on Facebook – it will only be available until June 26th due to Facebook limitations.



Hay!

The latest updates

Page 6-7

Fairchild Farmgirl

Here Kitty Kitty!

Page 4

Upcoming Events?

So Much to Do!

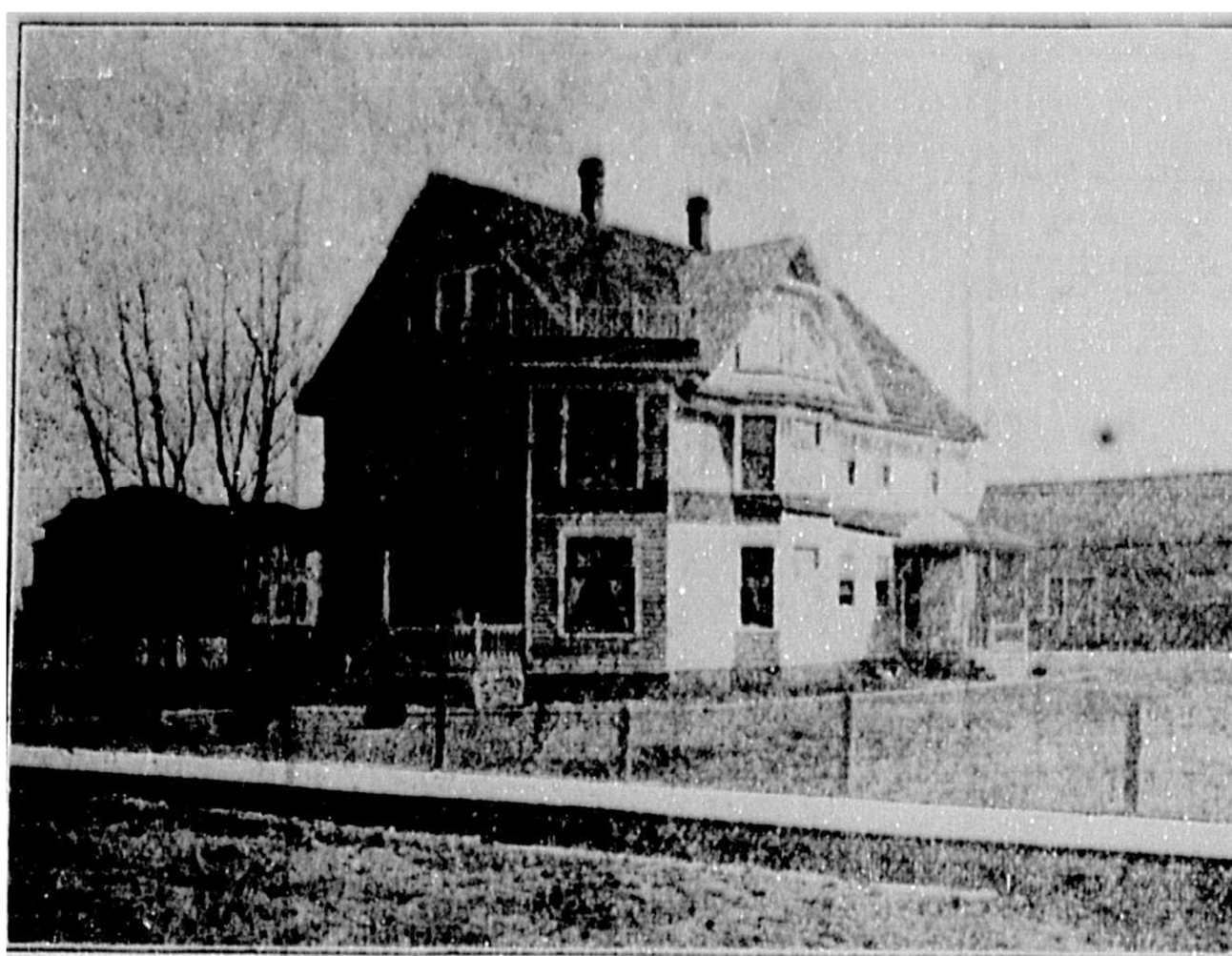
Page 8, 10-11

If These Walls Could Talk....

Today I would like to share the history of the Lohr house located at 1214 Coteau Street. I refer to it as the Lohr house because I first knew it as the home of Gladys Lohr. But while researching through the Gary Interstate archives and the deed records of Deuel County, more history come to light. The stately home was built in 1901 by Charles L. Oswald, a local businessman in Gary. Charles was born near Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin on December 27, 1855 and came to the Gary area in 1879. He took a homestead of 160 acres northwest of Gary in Altamont Township in 1884, receiving his Patent in 1887. He later sold his homestead to Frederick J. Erickson in the fall on 1889. He moved into Gary and conducted various businesses. Lots 15 - 18 in Block 6 of the Town of Gary were purchased by Charles Oswald, a single man, in April of 1900 for \$175 from Joseph Hebal who had purchased the land four years earlier for \$99 from the Winona and St. Peter Railroad. The 1900 Federal census lists Charles Oswald's occupation as a Saloon Keeper. He later operated a grocery store in Gary in the early 1900's.

The Gary Interstate covered the construction of the home in the local news columns.

Everything from building to landscaping to furnishing was covered in the newspaper. The home was an original duplex with a complete unit on the second floor as well as an unfinished walk-up attic on the third floor. It had fourteen rooms. Each unit included a reception hall, parlor, dining room, kitchen, bath, and 3



bedrooms. The property had a hot water plant for heat, a cistern, two good wells and a barn. The home was built by local builder and contractor William Lightfoot who worked in Gary and the surrounding area for twenty-nine years around the turn of the century.

The spacious home was completed in the late fall of 1901, just prior to his marriage to Pauline Rothlisberger in December of that year. Charles Oswald very quietly traveled to Elgin, IA to be married and that was not news until after-the-fact.

The couple had one son while living in the home but, sadly, he died as an infant and they had no other children. In May of 1906, the Oswald's sold the home and lots to Ashley L. Houghton, the local banker with the Exchange Bank in Gary, for the sum of \$5000. They then moved to a farm on the Minnesota side of the state line, east of the Gary Public School (the McLain farm today).

Ashley L. Houghton was subsequently sued by his ex-wife and a judgment for past support of his minor children was put against the property in 1913. This was settled in 1917. He then sold the home and lots 15 - 20 in Block 6 to E.B Huffman (Edward) for \$4000 in 1920. Edward Huffman ran Huffman Hardware in Gary for many years. E.B. Huffman and his wife, Alice Traverse Huffman lived in the home for 17 years before moving to Canby.. Then the home and lots 15 - 17 of Block 6 were sold to E.F. Anderson and H.L.Dibble of Pipestone, MN for \$1

and other valuable consideration in May of 1937. From the Deed tax paid, this computes to a price of \$2000.

In October of 1937, the lots and home again were sold to a Walter Troutman of Lake Benton, MN for \$1. One year later, Walter Trautman (SIC) sold to C. F. Christensen of Wessington Springs, SD, again for the sum of \$1. For some sort of legal reason, Chris F. Christensen formally claimed this property as his Homestead. Aha, a marital dispute and the resulting degree of divorce and dissolution of marital bonds appears to be the cause. To the former spouse went lots 15 - 17 in Gary, some property in Wessington Springs, as well as woolen blankets from Norway and a certain hand painted picture along with various other household items. Christensen himself received one certain automobile and half of the household goods. So much for wedded bliss!

Title was cleared in 1940 and the property was purchased by Gladys Lohr in 1945 for \$2500. Note this is a married woman purchasing in her name only. Gladys and her husband Earl lived here and raised their family in this house. Earl tragically died in an auto accident in 1951 and, at some point, the upper unit was rented to tenants. It is possible that this was the common practice throughout the years as it was so designed. It also could have been a multi-generational home with adult children living in one unit and their parents in another. I personally remember Mary Scott living in the upstairs unit in the 1970's. Gladys remained in her home until selling to Roger and Deloris Pederson in 1977 for \$11,000.



Two years later, Pederson's sold the home to her sister Sarah and Bob Wynn for \$12,000. Following Bob's death, Sarah auctioned the home to James Norlander in 2018 for \$11,000 based on the Deed tax. Following Norlander's death, the property was purchased by RJ Lotus Investments, the owners of the Buffalo Ridge Resort at that time. The year was 2021 and the purchase price was \$8000. The house was shouting "make me pretty again!". Andy Venkatesan of RJ Lotus Investments did an extensive renovation of the property - roof, siding, plumbing, electrical and HVAC, as well as insulation, fresh paint and flooring. The classic home was brought back to life. Corey and Sarah Stoks made this their family home in 2023, purchasing it for \$135,000, based on the Deed tax paid. What a great example of community pride!

It is probable that the upper unit was always occupied by tenants or boarders as it was so designed. It also could have been a multi-generational home with adult children living in one unit and their parents in another. Barney and Barb Ries and family lived there while operating the Red Owl Store in the Odd Fellows Building from 1963-66. Others recall public school teachers living there. I personally remember Mary Scott living in the upstairs unit in the 1970's.

It's been suggested that the home was once used as a hospital or medical office in the early years. I'm still looking for documentation of that. If you know anything about this old house, please share at GHAInterstate@gmail.com.

- Patti Haas



Fairchild Farmgirl

In this article, we're talking cats. Oh yes. Here at the ole rancho, we appreciate a good farm cat. I know some people are against keeping cats outside, but most of our cats prefer being outside rather than inside the house.

Especially Agent Kitty. We used to call her our high-performance ranch cat. We'd give her kitties away when we didn't keep them here on the farm, and people loved them. They were good mousers and ratters just like their momma. She could hide under the feed bunk and still catch a starling on the rail, and they wouldn't know what happened to them. She lived to be about 16 when she was run over accidentally. I was so broken-hearted. But she was NOT an indoor cat. One time, the kids were in elementary school and were getting ready for the bus when Levi exclaimed, "Mom! A rat just ran in the laundry room from the mudroom!" You can bet Agent Kitty came in. I fear rodents like no one else. But she spent more time trying to get back outside rather than trying to kill that MOUSE. She hung on the screen door for dear life, and after I let her back outside, she wouldn't come to me for a whole day.

Then Rosie. We loved her, until we didn't. She brought her kittens to learn how to hunt in our baby chick pen. Overnight her and the kittens killed 90 baby chicks and didn't do anything with them but let them lie, which added more fuel to Ron's fire. That little family was evicted and went to another farm that didn't have chickens.

We had Tater, who we loved bringing into the house, and he would curl up in a box we put blankets in. The dogs trained him, and when he had to go to the bathroom, outside he went. It was so funny. After 6 years, he moved on. Personally, I think he went to the neighbors. He liked to roam, even though we fixed him. We haven't seen him since.

Now, there's a run of black cats here. The mother is about 7 years old, and her name is Momma Ken, a direct descendant of Agent Kitty (my kids name the cats...I get no say in this). Well, for the last week, she's been in heat. She howls this mournful howl, 24/7. For the past week, she's been howling by our bedroom all night long. As a rule, we don't keep boy cats, or if we do, we get them fixed. So, there was nothing for her here...until her mournful meows reached two of the oddest pair of boyfriends early last night. Ron was sitting in the recliner and said, "Well, we got some new cats." All I could think of was how we might get a good night's sleep for the first time in days. I looked at them and giggled. There sat a large tuxedo and right next to him, a small tabby cat, that was literally half his size. I don't know if the big one was trying to show the little one the ropes or if he just had him there for moral support. But as Momma Ken was howling and writhing in the grass, not 5 feet from them, they looked at each other, got up, and walked away. Like, "nope."

Is there a moral to this story? Again, nope. Just funny catty things happening at the Fairchilds, wanting some mousers in fall, not sure if we'll get any, because of our weirdo female feline.



Until next time,
Fairchild "Momma Ken,
that's not a good look" Farmgirl



A Look Back...

125 years ago, June 1901

Gary Interstate and Deuel County News combine as one paper
Good crowd at the concert st fairgrounds park
George Peachey loses part of index finger from brick making machine
Gary to celebrate July 4th
Mrs. W F Gordon breaks leg from falling over a child's cart

100 years ago, June 1926

Presbyterian Church services in both English and German
Chautauqua program being planned
Lloyd Helbolt falls off car and breaks arm
Births: Boys to Mr. & Mrs. FE Ovrom
Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Verne Gage
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Loots

75 years ago, June 1951

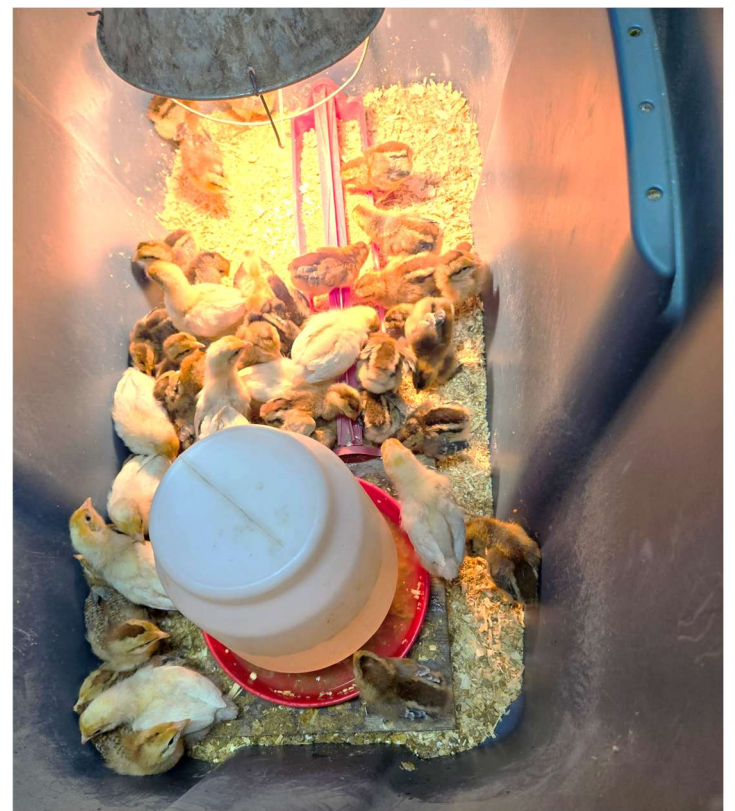
Parents and children of school District 46 enjoy a picnic at Lake Elsie Park
Rev. Fred Shoemaker new Methodist minister
Gary Legion has float in state parade
Melvin Simonton severs tip of finger while working on a tractor
Marriages: Marie Runge & Louis Severson
Betty Sueverkruiepp & George Stangeland
Carol Sherburne & Richard Mongrain
Births: Boy to Mr. & Mrs. Robert Gage
Girls to Mr. & Mrs. Rudy Baer
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Christianson
Mr. & Mrs. Warner Volk

50 years ago, June 1976

Funeral for Mrs. Theodore (Martha) Thomas held
Eleanor Cochrane received honorary Doctorate degree - Doctor of Letters Award from DWU
Canning lessons to be given at the Deuel County Courthouse
Red Cross offers swimming lessons at Lake Cochrane
Check your pressure canner now - ask at the Extension office
Thank you to the Legion for their help with the dance to raise money for Band suits

Chicken Math

Don't you dare let anyone talk you out of getting 12 chickens! Those 24 chickens will be the best 48 chickens you ever get!



Next Level Chicken Math



Memories of Gary, South Dakota Making Hay

Written by Mike Peterson, GHS Class of 1970

Grandma would pick me up after she has used her horses to cut and rake her hay fields, the schoolhouse grounds, and about three-fourths of a mile of Lover's Lane which ran along the east side of her property. We would hook her V and pyramid shaped hay wagon to the horses and ride out, always on hot, muggy days, to the raked-up piles of hay. Her horses were large and magnificent. They were best buddies and really enjoyed hay gathering days. Grandma and I would bring our pitchforks along. When we got to the first pile of raked-up hay, I jumped off the wagon while Grandma would slowly slide down off the wagon. The horses would stand perfectly still, enjoying their munchies and the hot, muggy weather. This kind of weather brings out the best of aroma therapy and Grandma, me, and the horses always were very happy during haying season. We would throw these 16-foot-long, tootsie roll shaped piles of hay onto the wagon, Grandma would go "tsch, tsch, tsch, tsch" and the horses would move ahead to the next pile and stop at the perfect spot by the next windrow.

Once we got a whopping load of hay, I would climb to the very top and Grandma would grab the reins and go "tsch, tsch, tsch, tsch" and the horses would cheerfully pull the bounty home and park right next to the outside sliding door to the loft. While Grandma went to her house to make sandwiches, I would unload the hay wagon, climb into the barn, and use the pitchfork to pile it up, way in the back. This was a happy job, even though the barn's loft would be about as hot as a sauna. I would think that the wild cats would have plenty of warm hay to make nests in once winter came, and that I would have a great place to jump into from the upper floor.

Grandma and I would do this over and over until the loft was filled or until we were out of hay to gather. We also had to gather enough ears of corn to fill the small corn crib which was the back part of Grandpa's blacksmith shop. Grandma had an old hand-operated corn sheller in the blacksmith shop, which was super fun. I would get a tin three-gallon pail, put it under the bottom of the corn sheller, get the gears moving really fast and throw about 6 or 7 ears of corn down the throat and listen as they go "wooooooosh" and spit all the shelled corn out the bottom into the pail. Sometimes, I could get some other kid to help me by keeping the eared corn flying in while I kept the gears spinning at a rapid clip. We could fill up 10 pails of shelled corn in a few minutes. I believe Grandma's old dance hall/stable, her blacksmith shop, and large stone-walled granary were very important buildings during the very early years in Gary history. They were all very beautiful buildings. I was such a lucky kid!



GATE CITY GENERAL

A little bit of everything...

Monday - Saturday
8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

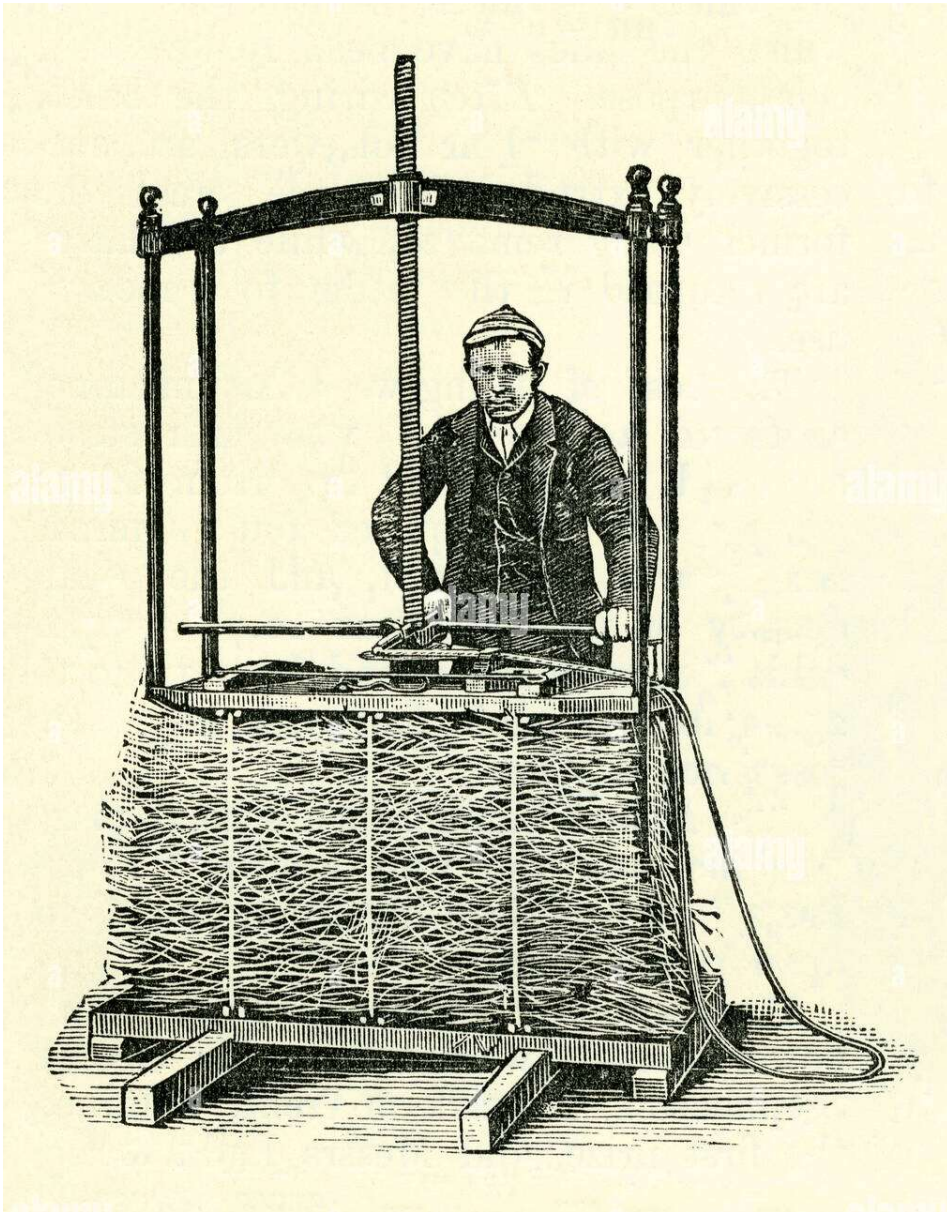
Sunday
8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Grocery • Hardware • Gifts
227 1st Ave. • P.O. Box 25 • Gary, SD 57237 • 605-272-5779
www.facebook.com/GateCityGeneral • GateCityGeneral@gmail.com

Making Hay is a Pressing Matter

November 22, 1901 Gary Interstate

G.A. Healey has shipped three carloads of pressed hay from Gary. Probably double the quantity of hay could have been cut than was cut in Deuel County this summer.



Hay presses were crucial for compressing hay into dense bales for transport to the cities and the huge market of feed for draft horses. Early hay presses were vertical chambers that were built into the barn, rising up into the hay loft. Hay was pitched into the chamber and a press weight was dropped to compress the hay. Horses were used to lift the weight so more hay could be added to the chamber. These permanent hay presses were capable of making a 300-pound bale that would be hand-tied with 3 - 5 stands of wire or twine.

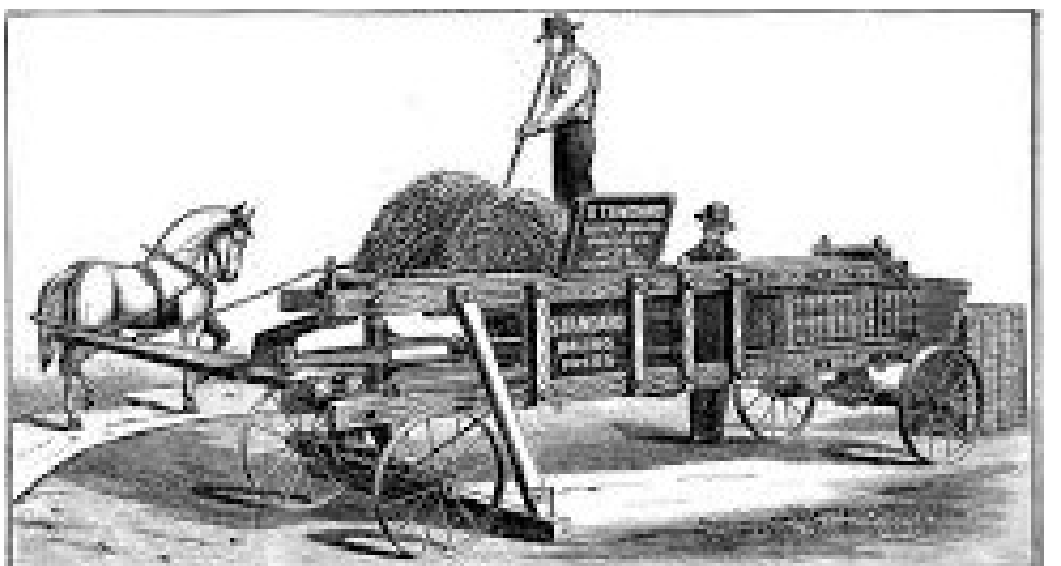
Smaller hay presses for private use required only manpower to operate. The chamber would be filled with hay, compressed by using a lever or a crank, and then hand-tied. The chamber would be opened to remove the bale. A coordinated

crew could bale up to 72 bales a day - all by hand.

Portable hay presses were soon on the market. These mobile presses were often belt-driven machines powered by steam engines. The machines could travel from farm to farm, similar to threshing machine runs and were being manufactured locally to the Midwest in Ohio and Minnesota.

The Winona Fence Company of Winona, MN developed a horizontal hay press that could be operated by one man using a crank mechanism. Soon models were designed that used reciprocating plungers which were incorporated into many early baler designs.

Bale sizes were very inconsistent, and the entire process was very labor intensive. Men were needed to pitch the hay into the chamber and to tie the bales, more men were needed to load and stack the bales for transport. Neighbors worked together "to make hay while the sun shines!" Farmers could also stack loose hay both in the barn and outside and wait to do the baling later.



* ALL ACTIVITIES SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR CANCELLATION *

Marlene Lois Cole
March 17, 1940 - June 1, 2026

Marlene L. Cole, age 86, passed away peacefully on June 1, 2026, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Memorial services for Marlene L. Cole was held at 1:00 pm on Saturday, June 13, 2026, at the Gary Methodist Church in Gary, South Dakota. Visitation was held Saturday from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the church. Burial was in the Grandview Cemetery, Gary, SD. Houseman Funeral Home in Clear Lake, SD was entrusted with the arrangements.

Marlene Lois Cole was born on March 17, 1940, in Omaha, Nebraska. She attended school in Creighton, Nebraska, and later in Watertown, South Dakota.

On November 16, 1957, Marlene was united in marriage to John Horton. Throughout her working years, she was employed by Randall Foods in several communities and later enjoyed a long and successful career with “Ma Bell,” working in Pierre, Rapid City, and Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Following more than 30 years of dedicated service, she retired.

On June 19, 1999, Marlene married Dennis Cole. Together they made their home in Gary, South Dakota, where she lived for many years. In later years, she became a resident of the Good Samaritan Society in Sioux Falls.

Grateful for having shared her life are her husband, Dennis Cole; her sister, Nancy (Leo) Ziervogel; her brother, Brad (Pam) Simons; her stepsons, Barry (Gayle) Cole, Brad Cole, and Dana (Lori) Cole; her stepdaughter, Jody (Rick) Ruter; her sisters-in-law, Chris Simons and Elonne Veen; and many nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Marlene was preceded in death by her parents, Martha (McElhose), and Bill Simons; her first husband, John Horton; her sister, Jeanne (Bill) Moscoff; and her brother, Tom (Chris) Simons.

LeRoy "Buck" J. Dessler
May 6, 1940 - March 28, 2026

LeRoy “Buck” Dessler, age 85, of Gary, SD, passed away March 28, 2026 at the Avantara Nursing Home in Milbank, SD. Graveside service with Military Honors was at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, May 30, 2026 at the Grandview Cemetery in Gary, SD. Houseman Funeral Home in Clear Lake, SD was entrusted with the arrangements.

LeRoy “Buck” Dessler was born May 6, 1944, in Canby, Minnesota to John “Jack” and Ione (Reilly) Dessler and was raised in Porter, Minnesota. In 1950, they moved to Gary, South Dakota where he graduated high school in 1958. He then entered the United States Army and was stationed in Germany for two years. Following his return from the military, he worked odd jobs before he moved to Lead, SD where he worked for the gold mines for two years.

He was united in marriage to Gloris Ekern in 1962. They lived in Hopkins, MN where he worked for NSP-Xcel Energy for 32 years. In 1998, he retired and they moved to Gary, SD.

Buck loved to hunt, fish, trap, and camp. They enjoyed going to their home on Lake Mille Lacs until 2010.

He is survived by his wife Gloria Dessler, Gary, SD; two sons: James Dessler, Hendricks, MN and Todd (Annie) Dessler, Prior Lake, MN; grandchildren: Luke, Emae, Taylor, Jack and Alexa; great granddaughter Emersyn; brother, Clark “Tuff” (Bev) Dessler, Gary, SD; and many nieces, nephews and extended family and friends.

Buck was preceded in death by his parents, grandparents, twin sisters: Joyce Lunde and Jeanette Carter.

Michael Bruce Evans committal at Grandview Cemetery, Gary, SD

Michael Bruce Evans was born 3/7/1983 and died at age 42 on 9/17/2025 at Burnsville, Minnesota. His cremains will be buried Saturday, 10:30am, July 11, at the Grandview Cemetery in Gary, SD. Pastor Bruce Mueller will officiate and light refresments with follow at the First Lutheran Church in Gary.

Gary Happenings

2026

GARY

RODEO

FRI & SAT

JULY 3RD & 4TH - 6PM

STOCK CONTRACTOR

Muddy Creek Pro Rodeo

ANNOUNCER

Travis Shauda

BULL FIGHTERS

Wyatt Mason & Dave Pakorny

CLOWN

Donnie Landis

CELEBRATING FREEDOM

250 YEARS!

EAT • SHOP • RODEO

Kid's Sheep Ride 5:00 pm

Wild Cow Ride

Kids Sheep Rides & Wild Cow Ride Entries

Call: 605-520-4450

Vendors on Site

Patriotic Tributes

RODEO EVENTS

Saddle Bronc Riding

Bareback Riding

Steer Wrestling

Calf Roping

Team Roping

Barrel Racing

Bull Riding

Ladies Breakaway

RODEO ADMISSION: \$25 • AGE 10-17: \$15 • 9 & UNDER: FREE! • FIND US ON

@GARYRODEO

4TH OF JULY

PARADE!

Gary, SD

LINE UP AT 3:00 PM

PARADE STARTS 3:30 PM

\$5 PER ENTRY

PRIZES FOR TOP 3 CATEGORIES FOR GOLF CARTS/ATV AND FLOATS

ROUTE STARTS AT SOUTH BASEBALL FIELD

AMERICA'S 250TH

1776 • 2026

To sign up call

TINA OR RACHEL

605-303-9190 OR 605-237-8207

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Upcoming Gary Home Games

Concession

Thurs, June 18th Gary Tball Scrimmage- Gary White vs Gary Black 6pm

Mon, June 22nd Gary Tball (Black Team) vs Clear Lake 6:30pm

Tues, June 23rd Gary Tball Scrimmage - Gary White v Gary Gray 6pm (top field)

Gary Women vs Viessman's 7:30pm (main field)

Thurs, June 25th Gary Tball Scrimmage - Gary Gray v Gary Black 6pm

Gary 8U Boys Baseball vs White (Gold Team) 7pm

Mon, June 29th Gary Tball (White Team) vs Clear Lake 6:30pm

Tues, June 30th Tball End of Season Fun Game 6pm (top field)

Gary Women vs Goodwin Merchants 7:30pm (main field)

Tues, July 14th Gary Women vs Water Billboards (Toronto) 7:30pm

Tues, July 15th Gary Women vs White 7:30pm

Tues, July 28th Gary Women vs Headliners (Canby) 7:30pm

Tues, Aug 4th Gary Women vs Buck's (Toronto) 7:30pm

** Women's League Tournament August 15th & 16th in Canby**

**The Gary Historical Association
Museum Membership**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Comments: _____



PayPal

JIM'S MARKET
CANBY • SLAYTON




811 St. Olaf Avenue North
P.O. Box 148
Canby, Minnesota
507-223-5505
www.jims-market.com

YOU CAN COUNT ON US FOR
★ Quality ★ Service ★ Freshness

Visit the Museum

Gary Historical
**WILL OPEN IF YOU CALL AND
REQUEST A TOUR.**
PLEASE CONTACT:
Ellen Schulte
605-272-5295
Carolynn Webber
605-272-5777

Gary Historical Assn's Officers

President – Patti Haas
Vice President – Ellen Schulte
Secretary – Gene Hults
Treasurer – Barb Stangeland

Board Members: Albert Bekaert, Carolynn Webber, and
Pam Hults.

**NOSBUSH
PLUMBING
& HEATING**

BRADY NOSBUSH

Cell: 507.829.8267
nosbushplumbingllc.wixsite.com/website  Find us on Facebook

The Style
Hair Studio LLC

217 1st Avenue
Gary, SD 57237

Jodi Mercer
(605)277-8880



DEUEL COUNTY FARMERS UNION OIL CO.
Truly Cooperative

**GARY AMERICAN LEGION
DANCE HALL**

Accepting Bookings for

- Wedding Receptions & Dances
- Graduation Parties
- Anniversary Parties
- Youth Events
- Birthday Parties

Contact Loran at 507-277-5525
Or email garyllegionhall@gmail.com

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.