

St. Charles Heritage Center

THE CHARLEMAGNE

215 E. Main Street ✧ St. Charles, Illinois 60174 ✧ (630) 584-6967

Volume XXIV ✧ Issue 4 ✧ Winter 2007

Chief Sitting Bull Boy *by Jim McGuire*

A dark period of United States history was the war waged against Native Americans for their land. One of the most famous battles of this period was on the banks of the Little Big Horn River in Montana. In that historic battle, *Hunkoapa*, otherwise known as Sitting Bull, Chief of the Sioux, led his tribe to victory over General George Custer. It was the greatest victory achieved against the United States Cavalry by Native Americans. Following the massacre of the Sioux at Wounded Knee Creek, which was the tragic end to the cavalry's war against the Native Americans, Sitting Bull became part of Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West shows before his death in 1890. He did have offspring, though not much is

known about them. However, one of his grandchildren did come to St. Charles, and he graduated high school here. Though it was only for a short time, St. Charles was his home.

Tatanka Iyotaka Hokeila ("Sitting Bull Boy"), otherwise known as Herbert Welsh, came to St. Charles in the spring of 1926 and was a junior at St. Charles High School the following fall. He was brought here

by the Woodcrafters Club of St. Charles High School and H. Clarke Brown, the principal of the school who also taught woodcraft and biology a year earlier. Already in his mid-twenties, Herbert was a student at the Howe Military School in Indiana. He completed four years of United States Army Service, first in the 64th Infantry band, 7th Division, which served in France and Germany during the first World War, and then in the occupation army. Herbert also played bass horn with General John J. Pershing's band for two years.

Herbert actually lied about his age when he enlisted in the military. He was still a teenager. He enlisted at Wakpala, South Dakota, which is the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation. Herbert's father was an Episcopalian minister to the mission and school there.

H. Clarke Brown heard of Herbert through a friend, Harold Loring, who directed the Detroit Symphony. Herbert was a musician and woodcraftsman. Brown met Herbert on a train in Chicago as Herbert was making his way back to South Dakota from Indiana. Brown asked Herbert to come see the St. Charles High School graduation (1926) and offered him an opportunity in the area. Herbert entered St. Charles High School the following fall, where he taught woodworking, bead working, and other crafts in return for his books and lessons. While attending school in

Chief, continued page 4



Heritage Center wins State Award

The St. Charles Heritage Center was recently presented with an Award of Merit from the Illinois Association of Museums. The award was presented for the quarterly newsletter, *The Charlemagne*, which is given to Heritage Center Members as a benefit of Membership.

Special thanks to member **Patty Thayer**, who has donated her time to edit copy and design the layout of *The Charlemagne* for the past 10 years.



Holiday Gift Ideas!

The 17th annual Heritage Center Christmas ornaments are now available in the gift shop. This year the collectible decoration features Mount St. Mary's Academy building that was located on Route 31. Ornaments sell for \$10 each and feature an image of the building in silver on a blue bulb. Quantities are limited, so be sure to buy yours today.

Previous years (1992-2006) are available for \$15 each or are sold in sets for \$125 and come complete with a Heritage Center tote bag.

Signed copies of the award-winning book, *St. Charles – Culture and Leisure in an All American Town*, are available at the History Museum. This publication would make an excellent gift for a friend or neighbor.

Also, remember that any photo, map or advertisement from our museum collection can be copied and framed for enjoyment in your home or business. Copies start at just \$6 per image up to 11" x 17" in size. Larger sizes are available upon request.

The Heritage Center has a wide variety of St. Charles local history books as well as maps and photos ready for purchase in our museum shop. Stop in today and see our ever increasing selection.

SEE page 5 for our Special Members' Night at the Gift Shop, just in time for holiday giving.



St. Charles Heritage Center & History Museum

Office & Museum (630) 584-6967
Fax: (630) 584-6077
www.stcmuseum.org
info@stcmuseum.org

–St. Charles History Museum–

215 E. Main Street
Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
Sunday, noon–4 p.m.

–Dunham-Hunt House–

304 E. Cedar Avenue
Open for seasonal events

–Archives–

Call for Appointment

–Officers–

Laura Haule, President
John Dickens, Vice President
Mary Ellen Segraves, Secretary
Melvin Peterson, Treasurer

–Board of Directors–

Jack Brens
Charles Brown
Cliff Carrignan
Nancy Cox
Brian Henry
Allen Landmeier
Steve Martin
Bob Matson
Martha Miller
Fred Robinson
Jerry Swanson
Mike Hill, *Advisory*
Joann Collins-Pace, *Honorary*

–Staff–

Julie Bunke, *Registrar*
Natalie Gacek, *Educator*

News, Events & Noteworthy Items

All committee meetings are held at the History Museum unless otherwise noted.

January

- 3 The St. Charles History Museum will reopen
- 4 Fundraising Committee meeting: 4 p.m.
- 5 Junior Historical Society meeting: 1-2:30 p.m.
- 13 **Annual Meeting: 12:30 p.m. St. Charles Public Library**
- 16 Education Committee meeting: 10 a.m.
- 19 **75th Diamond Anniversary Ball, 6:30 p.m. Hotel Baker**
- 23 Board of Directors meeting: 5 p.m.

February

- 2 Junior Historical Society meeting: 1-2:30 p.m.
- 14 Thursday Evening Lecture: 7 p.m. St. Charles Public Library. No Cost.
- 20 Education Committee meeting: 10 a.m.
- 20 Joe K. Anderson History Roundtable: 1-2:30 p.m. Pottawatomie Community Center. No Cost
- 27 Board of Directors meeting: 5 p.m.

March

- 1 Junior Historical Society meeting: 1-2:30 p.m.
- 19 Education Committee meeting: 10 a.m.
- 23 Museum Closed for Easter Holiday
- 26 Board of Directors meeting: 5 p.m.

Program dates and times are subject to change, please call to confirm all events (630) 584-6967.

Joe K. Anderson History Roundtables

The first Roundtable discussion of 2008 will be on Wednesday, February 20, at the Pottawatomie Community Center from 1 – 2:30 p.m. Businesses and Stores in St. Charles will be the topic. Join us as we continue our discussion reminiscing about the many businesses and stores that lined Main Street in years past. As always you are encouraged to bring along photographs, memorabilia, and stories to share with the group. If you have any questions on this program, please call the History Museum, 584-6967.

Roundtable Discussion at Pottawatomie Community Center *by Rosanne Gulisano*

On October 17, the generations came together at a Joe K. Anderson Roundtable to discuss hotels, restaurants and pubs in St. Charles. In addition to the regular roundtable attendees, two teachers and five students from St. Charles East High School joined in the discussion. Young and old shared their memories and perspectives on some of the well-known St. Charles establishments.

Hotel Baker came up right away, as a show place in town for the growing up years of all long-timers attending. They recalled the impressive, complicated patterns on the lighted dance floor and having junior and senior proms in the Rainbow Room.

It seems there have always been a number of taverns on Main Street, except that in past days, they only served a limited menu of food and now they are complete restaurants. The attendees discussed the line of succession of the restaurant on the corner of Main and 1st Street, first **The Tin Willy**, then **Log Cabin** and most recently, **The Manor Restaurant**.

Gartner's Bakery was mentioned with fondness, especially by those who remembered their frosted malts. The "teen age hangout" several decades ago was located in the building where the **Arcada** and **Starbucks** are now. It was called **The Chatterbox** and had a soda fountain and a juke box.

The ladies talked about ice skating behind the Hotel Baker when the river froze over. The men spoke of the lucky few who owned automobiles "cruising" down Main Street from the high school (now Thompson Middle School) to The Chatterbox and impressing all the girls.

Colonial Ice Cream has transcended the

Roundtable, continue page 4

Looking to make a tax-favorable end-of-year donation?

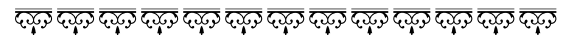
Remember the St. Charles Heritage Center for your last minute end of the year tax deductions. Cash donations to the Heritage Center are completely tax deductible and help to provide the many educational programs for adults and children.



Memory Books Will Be Available Soon!

The volunteers and staff at the Heritage Center have been busy compiling all of the responses to the St. Charles Heritage Center Memory Workbook.

We hope to have the completed workbooks available beginning in January 2008. Those who submitted a completed workbook will be receiving a complimentary copy. Others who would like a copy of the book may purchase one in our museum gift shop for a cost of \$15.



Chief, continued from page 1

this area, Herbert stayed at the home of John Bame on Prairie Street. Herbert's passion for music encouraged the high school to start a school orchestra, which Herbert promptly joined. Also while in this area, Herbert played semi-pro football, and he worked numerous jobs in town to earn money, including the Idle Hour Theatre, where he would often sneak girlfriends in through the side door. Herbert graduated high school the next year, 1927, when he was 28 years old. He left St. Charles to attend college at Hampton Normal in Virginia to pursue teaching. Once the necessary requirements were completed, Herbert taught at the United States Indian School in Fort Totten, Michigan.

In addition to this position, Herbert spent seven years as a lay minister for the Episcopal Church, though he never finished his training for the Holy Orders. He also served as a youth counselor for the Detroit Athletic Club and taught at a CCC Camp in Rexton, Michigan, before returning to his love of music and becoming a leader of an Indian band.

Herbert did marry. His wife, Helene, was an Ojibwa. She was a nursing supervisor at L'Anse Hospital, while he ran a trading post in L'Anse, Michigan, which is in the Upper Peninsula. The couple had eight children. He retired and traveled for the Michigan Tourist Association.

Herbert always carried with him a tribal affidavit, declaring his relationship to the famous Sioux Chief.

Roundtable, continued from page 3

generations. The students had visited that spot when it was located at 3rd and Cedar and the older folks told of the dairy and manufacturing facility that was located in the same building. The kids now get their ice cream at Oberweis shops, Cold Stone Creamery and Dairy Queen.

Everyone lamented the passing of the individually owned places of business in favor of the homogenous franchises we see more and more. The students, too, realized that all of those locations are part of our town's history.

The best story of the day told of the students many years ago who used to be able to hunt on the mostly undeveloped property surrounding Thompson School and were allowed to bring their guns to school and store them in their lockers until school let out, then go out hunting. There was also a shooting club and rifle range at the school. How times have changed!

75th Anniversary Endowment Campaign Donations

\$2,500-\$4,999

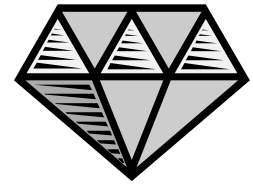
St. Charles Township
Comcast

\$1,000-\$2,499

Edward & M. Louise Anderson
Charles Bell & Family
Jack & Kathy Brens
Charlie & Diane Brown
Joann Collins
William & Nancy Cox
Lois Schreiber Eklund
Nancy Fiebelkorn
Patrick & Robyn Flinn
Cynthia & Edward Foster
Terry Grove
Laura Haule
Bob & June Henningson
Brian & Mary Henry
Michael & Nancy Hill
John & Teri Hoscheit
David Hunt
Doris Hunt
Jeffrey & Cheri Hunt
Ron & Jody Jaynes
Orv & Carolyn Jones
Masonic Lodge #48
Mercedes Benz of St. Charles
Randy & Julie Meridith
Martha Miller
Ralph & Ginny Minard
Fred T.L. Norris
Melvin & Ruth Peterson
Gary Porter
Joseph Schelstreet Family
Mary Ellen Segraves & Thomas Schultz
Patty & Dave Thayer
Bill & Nancy Warner
Harold Warren
Dale & Gale (Brigham) Willcox

\$250-\$999

Raymond & Angelyn Agrella
Lynette & John Arthur Anderson
Merle Anderson
George Bergland
Blue Goose Brat Stand
James & Carolyn Covalsky
Michael Dohan Family
James Gaffney
Hewell Family
Tracy Koop
Lincoln School in honor of Jeana Hilligoss
Anthony & Helen Karam
Betty Nemec
William & Dorothy Podl
The Safanda Family in memory of James L. Kacheres
Steven Smunt
St. Charles Bank & Trust
Don & Helene Yurs
Zimmerman Ford



\$50-\$249

Johan & Carol Bayer
Chris & Jyoti Black
Joyce Cregier
Cindy Davito
Henry Funk
Bradley Hunt Gunter
Frances Gustafson
Ralph & Anne Healy
Jack & Jean Larson
Joan Morlock
Patricia & Richard Nerad
Eleanor Oberst
Doyle & Joanne Olson
Dave & Judy Pierson
William & Linda Porter
Joseph & Mariann Ringhofer
Sandra Scott
Louis & Cheryl Sehring
John Thornhill

\$1-\$49

Judy Hines
Robert Walters
SBC Foundation Matching Gifts Program Robert Walters

We Thank Those Above & Encourage All To Help Preserve Our Rich History!

Our goal is to raise \$250,000 during the year-long campaign culminating with the center's 75th anniversary in January 2008. Former St. Charles Mayor **Fred L.T. Norris** and **Charles Brown** believe there are at least 100 or more long-time residents, like themselves, who will also contribute \$1,000 to help collect, preserve and present the rich and wonderful history of St. Charles.

New Donations

by Julie Bunke

New donations to the St. Charles History Museum include slides given by **Jim Stocker** of the unveiling of the Native American statue Ekwabet along the river.

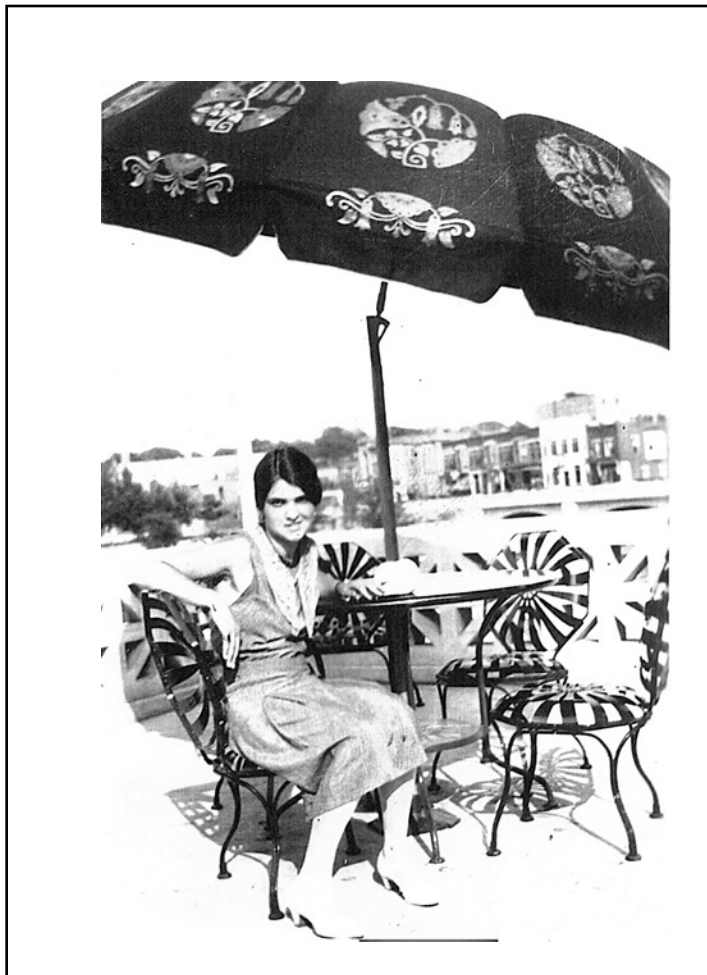
Also donated were several postcards of St. Charles given by **Mary Riippi**. These postcards are included in a packet sold as a "Souvenir of St. Charles, Illinois" and include images of the Hotel Baker, Mount St. Mary's Academy and the Cable Piano Plant.

Heritage Center member **Mary Anne Carlson Morgan** gave several photos of her family in various locations around St. Charles. Her mother, *Anne Oksas Carlson*, is shown in several photos posing on the terrace of the Hotel Baker.

Karen Rivera donated photos of the Checkmate Restaurant fire.

Marcia Swanson Capriotti gave a fascinating book titled *Home of R.F. Angell Lake Forest ILL.* This is an elaborate book showcasing the home of RF Angell, father of *Dellora Angell Norris*, who was a major benefactor to St. Charles. Shown in the book are several interior and exterior photos of the home as well as the manicured grounds of the estate.

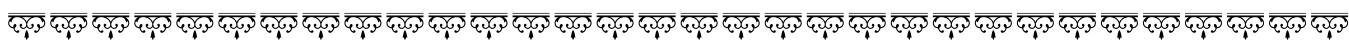
Special thanks also goes to the **St. Charles American Legion, David Peebles, Geneva History Center, Shawn Thornton, Sue Villanova and the Downers Grove Museum.**





ST. CHARLES HERITAGE CENTER ▼ 1933-2008
 JANUARY 19, 2008 ▼ HOTEL BAKER

Annual Meeting
 The Annual Membership meeting will be held at the St. Charles Public Library on Sunday, January 13, starting at 12:30pm. Please join us for cookies and punch and help us celebrate 75 years of Collecting, Preserving & Presenting St. Charles History.



Memberships are important to the St. Charles Heritage Center! Your support is vital! The Heritage Center derives a majority of its operating budget from its annual memberships. Please tell a friend about the St. Charles Heritage Center and use the form below to invite them to become a member. The many benefits of being a member include 10 percent off in the museum store, free admission to the history museum and Dunham-Hunt House as well as other special events throughout the year.

Membership

Check the Yearly Membership Level of Your Choice

- Grantor *\$5,000+
- Benefactor *\$1,000 - \$4,999
- Corporate *\$500 - \$999
- Patron *\$250 - \$499
- Sponsor \$100 - \$249
- Family \$40
- Individual \$25 *Your company may match your gift.*
- Senior \$10 *Please contact your employer for details!*
- Student/Junior \$10

**Your Name will be on Wall Recognition Plaque in the Museum*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

•We do not rent or sell our private mail list.

**Clip & Mail to: St. Charles Heritage Center
 215 E. Main Street, St. Charles, IL 60174**

Membership Benefits

- ❖ Free admission to the St. Charles History Museum, Dunham-Hunt House and various programs yearly.
- ❖ Reduced admission to lectures and programs.
- ❖ Free quarterly publication, *The Charlemagne*
- ❖ 10% discount on Museum Gift Shop items.
- ❖ Reduced fee on local history research services for home or family.
- ❖ Knowing that your membership, participation and support helps the Heritage Center to collect, preserve and present our history.

I would also like to be involved with the following...

- 4th of July Glowsticks Sales
- Appraisal Weekend Fund-raiser
- Grave Reminders Cemetery Program
- Tour Docent
- Museum and/or Dunham-Hunt Docent
- Office Assistance
- Gift Shop Assistance
- Special Events
- Other (please tell us your special talents)

LIVE AUCTION...

Four Night Stay at Windham Resort, Orlando - Donated by Jack & Kathy Brens

Rich Harvest Farms Golf Foursome - Donated by Mayor Don DeWitte

Black Sheep Golf Foursome - Donated by Mayor Don DeWitte

Bubbling Spire Water Fountain - Donated by Aquascape Inc.

Private Dinner Party for Six with Celebrity Server - Donated by Shannon Quinn-Sasota & Mayor Don DeWitte

SILENT AUCTION...

Girl's Fantasy Basket - Donated by McDowell Inc.

Scrapbook Mania - Donated by the St. Charles Heritage Center, Scrap Shack in St. Charles, Julie Bunke and Natalie Gacek

Night at the Museum Birthday Party - Donated by the St. Charles Heritage Center

Trip to the Diamond District & Lunch - Donated by The Goldmine

Custom Architectural Sketch - Donated by Richard Browne

Personal Training Session & Body Analysis - Donated by Mosaic Fitness

Keepsake Silver Name Bracelet - Donated by Suzzi Campbell

Mini Cadillac Escalade - Donated by Al Piemonte Cadillac, St. Charles

Handcrafted Santa - Donated by Kay Burkart

Best of St. Charles Basket
from... Town House Books & Cafe, Lucky Dog, Men's Groom Room, Eliza Jane, 3rd Street Shops, Pub 222 and more!

Breakfast with the Mayor of St. Charles Plus a Ride to School in a St. Charles Fire Truck - Donated by Mayor DeWitte & The St. Charles Firefighters

AMAZING!

One lucky person will go home with a stunning diamond ring! This 18-karat gold ring features a radiant-cut center diamond flanked by baguettes and retails for over \$6,000! Yet another wonderful reason to join us at the 75th Diamond Anniversary Ball on January 19, 2008.



215 E. Main Street
St. Charles, IL 60174

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ST. CHARLES, IL 60174
PERMIT NO. 102