

The Gayville Hall Gazette

11th Season Brings Great Shows, Hall's 10th Anniversary

Gayville Hall's 11th season starts on Saturday, **April 2**, at 8 p.m. with our monthly musical variety show, **"The Hay Country Jamboree."**

Jamboree regulars, including Gayville Hall's country music hosts John and Susan McNeill and the extraordinary and funny banjo player Daniel Kilbride, kick off the first of eight monthly shows with a guest who has become a Jamboree favorite, Iowa's "Singing Farmer," Ervin Pickhinke.

Fast-paced and entertaining, each Jamboree features three or more musical acts on stage together trading old-time tunes, country, bluegrass, and humor by turn. The two-hour shows, each with an intermission midway, are on the first Saturday of every month though November.

Keeping with the season, Gayville Hall will present **"An Evening of Old Time Country Gospel"** at 8 p.m. on Saturday, **April 16**, starring the

McNeills, Nick Schwebach, and Owen DeJong. Be ready to hear great old-time gospel performed by a fabulous country foursome.

The incredible **Poker Alice Band** takes the stage at 8 p.m. on Saturday, **April 30**, for a concert of country swing, jump blues, and old-time country and popular classics, as can only be performed by this fine, eclectic band. The great country singer Brenda George is trying to rearrange her schedule so she can appear with the band.

The tenth anniversary of Gayville Hall's inaugural show, which was staged on Wednesday, May 16, 2001, will occur in May. Read the "From the House" column on page two for more on Gayville Hall's beginnings.



The Poker Alice Band with Brenda George

Gayville Hall will present two shows during our anniversary month. **"The Hay Country Jamboree"** on Saturday, **May 7**, at 8 p.m. promises to be a "really big show" with the McNeills, Kilbride, Schwebach, and DeJong all on board, as well as some surprise guests.

On **May 21**, the very distinguished and oh so fun **Public Domain Tune**

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Good People, Kocher, and Pickhinke Bring Variety to Hall

One of the exciting things about attending a Hay Country Jamboree show -- or just about any other show at Gayville Hall for that matter -- is that you never quite know what delightful musician you might meet next.

To complement Gayville Hall's beloved regular line-up, Gayville Hall proprietor Doug Sharples brings an interesting variety of musicians onto the stage. In recent seasons, these musicians and performers have included cowboy poet Ed Nesselhuf, Vermillion singing sensation Jamie Lynn, vocalist Evie Johnson, pianist Terry Brooks, the trio Good People, the amazing saxophonist C.J. Kocher, and "Singing Farmer" Ervin Pickhinke, among others.

Here's a closer look at the trio Good People, C. J. Kocher, and Ervin Pickhinke, who will all appear in shows at Gayville Hall this spring.

Good People

Good People -- the trio of Bruce Gray, Cindy Gehm, and Rebecca Gehm -- are excited to be coming back to Gayville Hall this spring to perform.

The group, who first appeared at Gayville Hall last year, will play during the June 4 "Hay Country Jamboree". The group offers a mix of folk, gospel, bluegrass and mountain music and is particularly noted for the beautiful vocals of mother-daughter duo Cindy and Rebecca Gehm.

"We love Gayville Hall," says Cindy, who plays bass, guitar, harmonica,



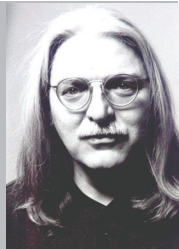
Cindy and Rebecca Gehm, two of the three members of the group Good People.

and piano, in addition to singing. "I really love the fact that Gayville Hall has a real audience who's watching and enjoying the music."

In fact, the trio's name -- Good

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From the HOUSE



by Gayville Hall Proprietor Doug Sharples

Gayville Hall Reaches 10th Anniversary

Ten years ago in March, seeds were planted and the first concept of a little music hall named Gayville Hall came to me after the Gayville Country Store closed down, leaving empty 2/3s of the late 19th century mercantile building which my wife Judi and I had owned since 1997.

The building had been a general mercantile or grocery for about 120 years, but the acoustics were impressive enough for me to think of a music venue. We built a stage, bought a couple stage lights, borrowed some folding chairs, and hired saxophonist Preston Love and his quartet to perform at our first event at Gayville Hall, a two-hour concert on May 16, 2001, by the former Count Basie, Ray Charles, and Motown musician whom I had been following for many years down in Omaha.

I had filmed at a number of Love's gigs in Omaha in order to document his impressive musical career (for a still uncompleted film) and filmed at Gayville Hall's first concert as well, helping to justify the building of the stage in our empty storefront.

The second show at Gayville Hall and those to follow were staged to further mitigate the expenses of the stage and venue and proved to be a great way to take a long vacation from the film business.

The elemental simplicity of the music hall business delighted us. Hire some great local musicians, most expressly our old friends from college days, John and Susan McNeill of Springfield, and newer friends, two great local musicians living nor far from us outside Wakonda, Owen DeJong and Nick Schwebach, and PUT ON A SHOW!

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Gayville Hall: Home to Music Accessible to All

Season eleven is beginning for Gayville Hall, and Doug, Judi, and daughter Riva have spent the past cold months putting together Saturday night shows for us to enjoy throughout 2011's more temperate times. This will be a year of good Gayville Hall music, with country at the core, and other styles added to keep the mix interesting, engaging, and stimulating.

A popular American singer once sang that you can't afford to look back. I take issue with that and counter that you can't afford not to look back. I think that's so because of the dismal state of today's American music – country included. The music and the recordings we hear on the radio today are all but inaccessible. And when a singer with a hit record today performs his song in a large concert hall, it takes several semis of musical equipment and a half-million dollars worth of sophisticated electronic processing to get the song to sound like the record. It's all big-budget and complex, and only the high-paid pros can do it. Except for listening to the radio and an occasional expensive trip to the city, the country folks are pretty much left out.

From the STAGE

by Gayville Hall MC John McNeill

I like what the Sharples family is doing at Gayville Hall. They put on the GvH stage music that's always been within our reach, both as listeners and players, music we can still be singing and humming after Doug has brought down the stage lights and we're in our cars headed home. Music we don't have to try too hard to understand. Music that's been written and played both about us and for us. Music that does something for us, instead of music that does something to us. As much as I feel excluded from the new world of music, I still feel very much included in the old world of music, which keeps me connected to the prevailing yesteryear themes of Gayville Hall.

I hope you'll look ahead to some looking back, and come often to Gayville Hall this season.

11th Season Offers Great Music This Spring

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Band returns after a year's absence from our stage for a concert of delightful old-time American popular tunes from the first half of the 20th century.

The songs to be played are by great American songwriters from that greatest of our popular musical eras. The band features the wonderful vocals and guitar of Nick Schwebach, Owen DeJong on fiddle, Larry Rohrer on bass, and the talented saxophonist C. J. Kocher. This will be American music of the first order.

The trio Good People of Vermillion, which features mother and daughter

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Ten years later, nothing much has changed except for a few physical improvements. The concept is the same and so are our core musicians. Come and enjoy a show.

Cindy and Rebecca Gehm and guitarist and singer Bruce Gray, guest stars in "**The Hay Country Jamboree**" on **June 4** with the McNeills, Kilbride, and company.

On **June 18**, Iowa's old-time country music stars **Bob and Sheila Everhart** return to Gayville Hall for an evening of traditional country with the McNeills. The Everharts are stars of television, recordings on a major label, and musical tours in over 30 countries around the world, where Bob has become an ambassador of American traditional country since the 1970s.

Read about our summer and fall schedules in issues of the Gazette to follow or on our website, www.gayvillehall.com, as updates are posted.

All shows are on Saturdays at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$12.50 at the door, \$15 reserved. Call 605-267-2859.

Unique Variety Brings Excitement, Fun to Hall Shows

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People -- was inspired by Gayville Hall. Gray and the Gehms have been musicians for many years and have played with various groups previously, but when Gayville Hall's Doug Sharples invited them to play at the hall, they decided to give it a go as a trio.

"We were thinking about a name for the group and we decided on Good People because of Gayville Hall and the good people who come [to the Hall]," says Cindy.

For Cindy, Rebecca, and Bruce, playing music is a "hobby, rather than a serious endeavor," but something that the three love to do.

Cindy, who works as a landscaper in charge of growing and planting flowers at the University of South Dakota, says playing music is her escape.

"Music gets me through everything," she says. "It's always the thing I go back to, no matter what happens in my life. I just sit down and play and it's a soothing, wonderful thing to do."

Rebecca works as a cake decorator for Cakes by Monica in Vermillion. Bruce works as an instrumentation technician for the Chemistry Department at USD.

Gray says he enjoys all types of music. He has been playing guitar and bass with various musical groups for more than 30 years. In the last decade, he and Cindy were part of the Vermillion musical group, The Buckaroos, and last year, they formed the group 5Grand with three others (the group has since disbanded).

Gray likes their Gayville Hall configuration of Good People.

"Becca has such a nice, solid voice," he says. "We have a lot of fun, the three of us playing together."

C. J. Kocher

Saxophonist C. J. Kocher says he has Gayville Hall proprietor Doug Sharples to thank for the wonderful time he's having improvising with Hall regulars Owen DeJong and Nick Schwebach. Kocher, a professor of saxophone and jazz at USD, first appeared at Gayville Hall as part of the South Dakota



C. J. Kocher

Jazz Quintet, but in 2009, Sharples asked Kocher to appear with DeJong, Schwebach, and Larry Rohrer in a performance of the Public Domain Tune Band. He thought the grouping would produce an interesting sound.

"Thanks, Doug!" says Kocher. "Playing with the Public Domain Tune Band has been a fantastic experience and is different from any other group I have played with. ... The instrumentation and group sound really make the band unique and different. I really enjoy the way we use collective improvisation in the group, with Owen and I both soloing together simultaneously."

Such collective improvisation was common in early jazz, says Kocher, but after the 1920s, it wasn't used much and evolved into today's model, where one soloist plays at a time.

The pairing of Kocher with the Public Domain Tune Band has been so successful that the band and Kocher continue to play together outside Gayville Hall. They can frequently be found playing together on Friday nights at Carney's Bar in Vermillion.

Kocher plays the soprano, alto, tenor, and baritone saxophones, which he frequently switches between.

"Each [saxophone] has a different character," says Kocher. "In the PDTB, I often switch to different saxophones

for different songs: I think to myself, "I believe the character of the soprano/alto/tenor/baritone would fit on this tune."

In addition to playing the saxophones, Kocher also plays flute, clarinet, and piano.

Kocher is looking forward to playing at the hall May 21 with the PDTB.

"It's a blast to play there!" says Kocher. "Great atmosphere and appreciative audiences. Doug and Judi [Sharples] are great people who have done something really special for the community and region, and I'm glad to be a part of it."

Ervin Pickhinke

Ervin Pickhinke says he owes his musical career to his niece. It was she who showed him, at the age of 29, how to play three chords, and thus began Pickhinke's musical career.

"I don't read music," says Pickhinke. "Aside from a few people showing me some chords, I didn't take lessons. I just started playing."

Since the 1970s, Pickhinke has been playing guitar by ear. He played his first "gig" at a high school reunion shortly after learning to play. There, Pickhinke was surprised when he was praised not for his playing, but for his singing. He has continued to be praised for his voice.

"A lot of people say they can understand me, that my voice comes out as very clear," Pickhinke says. "I'm very careful about the songs I choose to sing, and that helps."

Pickhinke, a retired farmer who has recorded five albums, sings about farming and rural living. He has been dubbed "The Singing Farmer" and

was inducted into the Old Time Country Music Hall of Fame in 2007.

Pickhinke loves Gayville Hall for the atmosphere and audience. He will appear at the hall April 2.



Ervin Pickhinke

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Check out our fabulous
shows this spring!



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VISIT:
www.gayvillehall.com
for updated show information.

GAYVILLE HALL'S SPRING SEASON 2011

GAYVILLE HALL'S MONTHLY MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW

APRIL 2: **"The Hay Country Jamboree"**

starring John and Susan McNeill, "The Singing Farmer" Ervin Pickhinke
and Daniel Kilbride

A WONDERFUL EVENING OF SONGS FOR THE SPIRIT

APRIL 16: **"An Evening of Old Time Country Gospel"**

starring John and Susan McNeill, Owen DeJong, and Nick Schwebach

ENJOY COUNTRY SWING, JUMP BLUES, AND OLD-TIME POPULAR SONG

APRIL 30: **The Poker Alice Band** starring The Poker Alice Band

GAYVILLE HALL'S MONTHLY MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW

MAY 7: **"The Hay Country Jamboree"**

starring Nick Schwebach, Owen DeJong, Dan Kilbride,
the McNeills, and guests

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC AS THESE FABULOUS MUSICIANS COME TOGETHER

MAY 21: **THE PUBLIC DOMAIN TUNE BAND** WITH C.J. KOCHER

starring Owen DeJong, Larry Rohrer, Nick Schwebach and C.J. Kocher

GAYVILLE HALL'S MONTHLY MUSICAL VARIETY SHOW

JUNE 4: **"The Hay Country Jamboree"**

starring Good People, John and Susan McNeill, Dan Kilbride, and guests

EXPERIENCE AN EVENING OF TRADITIONAL COUNTRY

JUNE 18: **Bob & Sheila Everhart**

starring The Everharts with John & Susan McNeill

GAYVILLE HALL, 502 Washington Street, Gayville, SD

\$12.50 at the door, \$15 reserved

Call 605-267-2859. All shows start at 8 p.m.