

# St. Michael Historical Society

Summer 2007

Volume 1, Issue 4

Newsletter



## Early Filling Station

The picture of Allen J. Jaeb was taken in the late '30s when he was about 23 years old. His dad, John Jaeb built the blacksmith shop at that location and they put a gas pump in front in 1930. In the original picture Christina Jaeb can be seen sitting in the building. The stucco building to the left is the original telephone building in St. Michael. The gas station and telephone building were located on first and main where the present liquor store is located. That building was twice remodeled from the original blacksmith shop. Photo taken 1938.



## St. Michael Saints



### State Tournament

1948, 1949 and 1950

#### *Meetings for 2007*

Aug 6, 2007  
Aug 27, 2007  
Oct 1, 2007  
Nov. 2007

Meetings 7:00 at City Hall.  
Anyone is welcome

#### *Special Points of Interest*

- Blacksmith Shop
- Filling Station
- Baseball team
- Notecards

Created by:  
Genny Kieley

Top—Norbert Russell, Lloyd Duerr, Jim Zahler, Lloyd Kasper, Eddie O'Donnell, David Barthel

Middle—Jim O'Donnell, LeRoy Duerr, Roman Becker, Ivan Barblem, Gilbert Zachmann, Norman Duerr [Slim]

Bottom—Arvin Duerr, Fran Barblem, Ronnie Duerr, Harold Becker, Roger Bloms

## *Village Blacksmith Shop*



**Jaeb Brothers --John and Michael**

John was the seventh child of Michael and Louisa Josephine Jaeb. He was born on December 29, 1873, in Frankfort Township, St. Michael Minnesota. He grew up on the farm south west of St. Michael, and attended school in the village. John had a special affection for his older brother Michael, who had suffered from polio in his early years, which affected the growth of his legs. They spent much time together through out their early years, and on into adulthood. Besides John and Michael being blacksmiths, they had two other brothers who were very skilled at the trade, Peter and Joseph. In the early 1900's, after having gone to Vig South Dakota to become a butter-maker in a creamery there, Michael would return in the spring of the year to help John with the horse shoeing, and to attend the State Fair in the fall of the year.

After their marriage in 1898, John and Christine Barthel made their home in the town of St. Michael, where John had set up shop as the village blacksmith in the early 1890's.

John's talents as a blacksmith were well-known. Not only did he shoe horses and sharpen plow-shares, but he was also the man people called upon to make nearly anything out of metal. John's crafts ranged from twisted wrought iron planter stands to knives made from old saw blades. Farmers also came to him for made-to-order machinery parts and custom wrenches.

Working with horses and hot metal made John a tough individual. Horses did not dare give him any trouble for fear of his retribution. His hands were so callused that he amused the kids by tossing between his hands hot coals from the forge. Even John jokingly referred to himself as the strongest man in town, and in reality it probably was true. As the age of automobiles started to take away business, John adapted by adding gas pumps in front of the blacksmith shop in 1931, but he continued his smithing craft into the 1940's when he reached his retirement years.

*Information provided by Bob Zahler from A Short, Short Biography of John Jaeb*

### **Generations of Jaeb family**

Michael Jaeb 1833 and Louisa Duerr 1846

John Jaeb 1873 and Christina Barthel 1872

Allen Jaeb 1915 and Helen Meyerhofer 1911

John Jael 1941 and Patricia Barthel 1951

# *Notecards Picture Early Days of St. Michael*

## St. Michael Historical Society

Contains 11 different scenes of early St. Michael, MN area and envelopes. Available for purchase. They make great gifts.



**Main Street Hwy 241 and 35**



**Bernings Mill on the Crow River**



**Meat Market**



**Stencil work and Altar**

**Historic Church**



**Dam at Bernings Mill**



**Andrew Brixius Store**



**Threshing Crew and steam engine**



**Early photo of church & Parsonage**

# St. Michael Historical Society

St. Michael City Hall  
3150 Lander Avenue NE  
St. Michael, MN 55376  
Phone : 763-497-2041

Mailing Address Line 1  
Mailing Address Line 2  
Mailing Address Line 3  
Mailing Address Line 4

We need your photos and stories

*If we don't record it, some history will be lost forever.*



## Our Mission

People of the present day can learn about how to direct the future of the City of St. Michael by revisiting the path taken by those who came before us. Honoring the contributions of our forefathers and mothers and preserving their artifacts can help us remember their hard work in establishing our City's strong foundation. We hope it can inspire us to persevere in the work they began.



## St. Michael Historical Society

*Collecting, Preserving and Sharing the History of St. Michael*

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ -

**Annual Dues:** Individual/Family .....\$ 10.00 Business .....\$ 25.00 Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_

I have also enclosed an additional tax deductible contribution of ... ..\$ \_\_\_\_\_

SMHS General Operating Endowment Fund tax deductible Contribution...\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_    *Thank You!*

*Please make checks payable to:*

**St. Michael Historical Society  
3150 Lander Avenue NE  
St. Michael, MN 55376**

Contributions to the St. Michael Historical Society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS tax codes.

**We welcome your comments or memorabilia.**