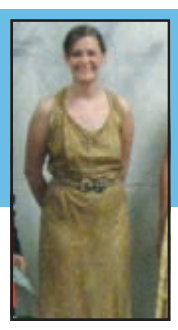
LOG CABIN QUILTING: *page 1B*



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Staples World

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German war bride still proud of America

By Tom Crawford
and Dawn Schimpp Timbs
Staff writers

Sixty some years ago, a young German woman, madly in love with an American ex-soldier, arrived in the U.S. to be reunited and married.

Gertrude Wild (pronounced Vild) knew no one in the U.S. except the handsome young army sergeant from Staples, Minnesota, whom she had worked with for about a year. She's never regretted leaving her homeland and starting life anew with Harold 'Bud' Schultenover.

Now, although Bud's no longer alive and she misses him very much, she's very appreciative of the U.S. "I have two good countries, that's how I feel. Germany and America, I've been very blessed."

She enjoys celebrating the Fourth of July, partially because she does not remember any similar patriotic celebration in Germany.

"Every Fourth of July, I say a prayer that the principals of the U. S. will stay the same as it was when I first came to this great country."

Gertrude recalled her first impression of the United States, after a 1947 trans-Atlantic passenger flight brought her to New York City. "We drove through the city and I couldn't believe it. It was so big.. stores open at all hours, so many cars. People were so friendly, too.

"We stopped at a restaurant and I ordered a ham sandwich. It was wonderful. I asked Bud if I could order another one and his grandmother interrupted and said, 'You can order ten of them.'" Having lived with government controls and rationing for years, Gertrude was amazed at the abundance.

"I marveled at the wealth I saw. I don't mean money, I saw the fields, the harvests, they were so bountiful. It looked to me like the U.S. could feed the world."

"I was so grateful to be here," she thought, both then and now. She's always been impressed with American patriotism and the freedoms we enjoy. "I hope we can keep it," she said. She's always been impressed with the attitudes she found here. "I've appreciated the American optimism and enthusiasm, there is such a willingness to help one another in this country."

She was born in 1923 and is 86 years old now. She recalls growing up in Germany as Hitler came to power, having a good friend in school whose

See **GERTRUDE** on page 2a

Cherished momentos

Gertrude Schultenover, Staples, holds the American flag presented to her at the funeral of her husband, WWII veteran Harold 'Bud' Schultenover. In Gertrude's china cabinet are kept other treasured momentos, including Hummel figurines from her native Germany; and plates she hand painted after she immigrated to the U.S. and married Bud. (Staples World photo by Dawn Schimpp Timbs)

Staples EDA okays loan to Stern Manufacturing

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

The Staples Economic Development Authority last week okayed a $50,000 loan to Stern Manufacturing and also agreed to terms for a new tenant in the Staples Industrial Building.

The SEDA loan is part of a 'gap financing' package being put together by four agencies to complement a bank loan for the majority of a $3.3 million package, EDA executive director Jerel Nelsen told the SEDA board members at their June 23 meeting in the conference room at the Staples Police Department.

Stern Manufacturing is a new corporation being formed with the restructuring of a previous corporation, Stern Companies, which was a partnership between Terel Stern and Shawn Hunstad. Stern will be the sole owner of Stern Manufacturing, with Hunstad taking over a new group called Stern Industries. Stern attended the meeting and said he would be returning to head up the Stern Manufacturing operations from the Staples plant in the Airport Industrial Park.

He explained that the current economic downturn has cut their revenue in half and resulted in the loss of several major accounts. Employment at Stern Rubber in Staples is down to a barebones staff, meaning people who have worked for the company for 20 years or more have been let go. "I want to bring these people back to work," Stern said, explaining why he needed the loan package. He said the loan will save roughly 55 jobs in Staples.

The loan is a working capital loan for $50,000 from the city, for 15 years with a five year balloon. He is also receiving $50,000 each from North Central Economic Development Authority (Region 5), the Initiative Foundation and Todd Wadena Electric. All four share a subordinate position to Stern's Twin City bank, which is loaning the bulk of the $3.3 million total project. The interest rate is 6 percent.

Stan Carlson noted he felt this is the core area the SEDA needs to be involved

See **EDA** on page 10a

Pouring cement

Construction continued June 24, on the new city hall and public library in Staples, with cement being poured on the main level floor. Rudenick's Concrete out of Staples pumped concrete; and Jordahl Construction, Motley, used their new 'Laser Screed,' equipment that saves time because it is so accurate, said Shawn Jordahl. In all, 13 loads of concrete were poured in the 123 cubic yards of space. In charge of the project is Northway Construction, Baxter. (Staples World photo by Dawn Schimpp Timbs)

Hello, Readers,

It's Thursday, July 2, the 183rd day of 2009, with 182 left.

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Hope you enjoyed Canada Day on July 1 and by all means enjoy the Fourth of July weekend!

Where in the World?

News:	**1-3, 10A**
Opinion:	**4A**
Current Happenings:	**5A**
Life Currents:	**6-7A**
Public Notices:	**8-9A**
Crow Wing Currents:	**1B**
Classifieds:	**2-3B**
Sports:	**4B**

Wolves status: **3A**
Motley council: **1B**
New dugouts: **4B**
Legion ball: **4B**

Weather

Last Week

	High	Low	Precip.
June 22	85	61	
June 23	78	58	
June 24	85	55	
June 26	87	67	
June 27	75	57	.67
June 28	73	56	
June 29	70	51	

This Week's Forecast

	High	Low	Cond.
July 1	78	55	Sun/Cld
July 2	78	56	Sun/Cld
July 3	78	58	Sun/Cld
July 4	81	54	Sun/Cld
July 5	78	57	T-Storms

Fireworks, gospel concert in Scandia Valley on July 3

Fireworks, bluegrass gospel and pony rides are on the agenda in Scandia Valley Friday, July 3, beginning at 6 p.m.

Lincoln Evangelical Free Church will host the following:

- Pony rides, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. (weather permitting)
- Picnic meal; and concert by the Crow River String Band (playing bluegrass gospel) will be held from 6 - 8 p.m.

Scandia Valley will host:

- Fireworks at dusk.

All events are free; and will be held at Scandia Valley Park. Directions: Eight miles south of Motley on Hwy 10, east on Co. Rd. 3 for three miles. Park is on left behind Scandia Valley Fire Hall.

City hears audit, views effect of LGA cuts

By Tom Crawford
News Editor

The Staples City Council last week heard a positive report on the city's finances, approved a taxicab license renewal and discussed the repercussions from the state' budget cutbacks, or unallotments, for the city's taxpayers.

Chuck Mayer, with the Mayer, Porter, Beinhorn & Rowe CPA firm, presented the firm's annual audit of the city's finances for 2008, declaring they were able to give the city an unqualified opinion regarding its financial picture.

Mayer, addressing the council, called attention to the unreserved fund balance in the city's general fund as of Dec. 31, 2008 was $500,977, or 40 percent of the total general fund expenditures for the year, totaling $1,256,830. Mayer said the state auditor recommends cities should maintain between 35 to 50 percent of their general fund in reserve. He termed the city's reserve amount the 'perfect spot' although he noted the figure this year had been reduced by about $112,000, from $613,175.

The general fund balance will likely take another reduction this year as the city has received another cut in state Local Government Aid (LGA). The state's argument is that cities with fund balances can use those funds to pay for services where they had been using annual LGA money.

LGA cuts have been a favorite target the past several years when the state has faced budget deficits. City Administrator Nate Mathews, in an interview after the meeting, said over the next two years the city will be losing 18 percent of the expected LGA funding, including $58,200 cut from their 2009 budget and $134,326 getting chopped from the 2010 expected state payments.

Since 1967, Mathews said, LGA has been a system of the state redistributing sales and income tax funds to local governments. Now the state is saying cities and counties must either cut costs or levy property taxes to make up those funds.

"It's not fiscally responsible to levy up to 18 percent increase in property taxes," Mathews said. He noted the city has no lifeguards at Dower Lake beach this summer, has discontinued paying a $2,400 dispatching fee to Todd County and is taking other steps to cut costs this year.

One of those is attempting to institute an employee wage freeze. The city is still bargaining with its three union groups, with the city's position that wages

See **COUNCIL** on page 3a