HISTORY OF
YANKTON COUNTY
SOUTH DAKOTA

by
The Yankton County Historical Society

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Our special thanks to Julia Pullen who proofread most of the Family Histories and to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Van Osdel, Mr. and Mrs. George Mueller, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Yaggie, Elsie Kaiser, Donna Reaney, Elaine Smith, Marilyn Nyberg and to Marjorie Reddest, our secretary, who without her help the Book could not have been completed, and to other members of the Yankton Questor Clubs. Our "thanks" to all of you.

COVER

Yankton County Courthouse, the formal opening was November 1, 1905. Located on the southeast corner of Third and Broadway, Yankton. The artist, Peter Meyer - for the Yankton Area Arts Association who have granted us permission to use this print on our cover. Our thanks to them.
July 10, 1986

A MESSAGE TO OUR READERS:

As we near the Centennial year for South Dakota our thoughts turn toward Yankton County and the part its people played in the Dakota Territory and the development of South Dakota.

We dedicate this book to those hardy pioneers who settled the farms and developed the cities and towns in our County. With them they brought a spirit of determination for the good life which exists today in mid-America. Our churches, schools and governmental entities stand as evidence of their belief in freedom and self-determination for all mankind.

We of the Yankton County Historical Society extend our "thanks" to those who contributed family, business and organizational histories for this book. Also to those who helped in other ways and showed concern for the project.

We hope you enjoy the book and that its contents will be a source of information, and inspire a continued interest in family and local history well into the next century.

Sincerely,

Ben Van Odel, President
Yankton County Historical Society
April 11, 1986

Dear Friends:

Yankton County and its settlers played a major role in the birth of this State. The first Governor of the Dakota Territory, William Jayne, called the first Dakota Territory Legislature into session in Yankton. Then-Colonel Custer and his wife stayed at the Merchants Hotel in April of 1873. The list of famous visitors and inhabitants of Yankton abound.

This book will let you meet those pioneers who built Yankton and South Dakota. You'll learn about the lives of people who turned the prairie into a state.

Enjoy!

[Signature]

State Capitol Building  Pierre, South Dakota 57501  (605) 773-3912
Dear Friends:

I would like to congratulate all the people of South Dakota and especially those whose efforts made this publication highlighting the 100th Birthday of South Dakota possible.

The road that we have come down has not been an easy one and there is still so much to do. But, we in South Dakota can be proud of our accomplishments. The integrity, determination and spirit of our people cannot be matched anywhere and these same qualities will permit South Dakota to know no bounds for her future.

Again, congratulations and best wishes on our 100th Birthday.

Sincerely,

Tom Daschle
Member of Congress
June, 1986

The residents of Yankton and the surrounding rural community certainly have a great deal to celebrate on this wonderful occasion.

Day by day, South Dakota pushes into the future, leaving an everlasting story of development and achievement. Yours is a proud heritage. The courageous pioneers who settled Dakota Territory when it was a vast, isolated stretch of land had a strong sense of duty to family, church and community. The history of South Dakota was shaped in towns like Yankton and today we should reflect upon the principles and the ideals that are America's true strength.

I congratulate you on this 100th birthday celebration and extend my very best wishes to all.

Sincerely,

Larry Pressler
United States Senator

LP/nc
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Certificate of Membership
IN THE YANKTON BURROW OF THE
Ancient Order of Missouri River Rats.

YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA
All Brother Rats have proven their worthiness to be affiliated with this Noble Order by actively supporting conservation and development of America's water resources.

This is to Certify that [NAME] is a member in good standing in the Ancient Order of Missouri Rats and the caste of [CASTE] is conferred herewith. All Brother Rats are earnestly entreated to grant him the cheese and honor to which he is entitled by reason of his position.

DATED THIS ___ DAY OF ___ 19__

[Signature]
Big Cheese with the Long Tail
INTRODUCTION

Born of a hardy pioneer spirit, Yankton County has grown into a thriving midwestern entity, rich with accomplishments and heritage. Since its infancy, the area has seen good times, as well as hardships, but it continues to endure by the power of its tenacious people — independent South Dakotans with their lust for unfettered life and prairie elbow room.

Bordered on the south by the Missouri River, and on the north by Hutchinson and Turner Counties, Yankton County is the home of Le Sueur, Uteka, Gayville, Volin, Mission Hill and Yankton, the county seat. Its neighbor to the east is Clay County, and to the west, Bon Homme County.

Before it was permanently settled, Indians from various tribes made Yankton County their home. Explorers also passed through the area, eager to learn about the land west of the Mississippi River. Fur trappers and traders, their canvas laden with their trade, pails, blankets and trinkets, used the Missouri River as their highway, and by 1859, Yankton County had become home to Dakota Territory pioneers. Immigrants from Europe, bring their traditions and tenacity, set up house- holds in the young county. Families from the eastern states, looking for new opportunities, made their way to Dakota. From them, generations have watched history unfold.

CHAPTER 1

Yankton County is one of 67 counties in its home state of South Dakota. Geographically dominated by rolling prairie, its main industry is agriculture. Located on the south eastern corner of the state, which lies in the heart of the North American continent, Yankton county has seen blizzards, floods, dust storms and drought. Cattle, sheep, horses and pigs are raised on its many farms. Its rich, black loam produces hay, corn, soybeans, sorghum and a variety of grains. Modern technology and expert planning have developed its assets, and the county continues to thrive, but it has taken the spirit and ambition of many generations to reach the goals of today and form the dreams of tomorrow.

Before the proclamation of statehood in 1889, Yankton County was a tiny section of the vast Dakota Territory, which earlier, had been part of France's Louisiana Territory. Prior to that, the first Dakotans, people of Asian blood, made the region their home.

The race of people we now call Native Americans, migrated from across the continent, settling on the Dakota plains. They made their living hunting deer, buffalo and small game, and gathered berries from the banks of the area's many streams. Along the Missouri River, a branch of Pawnee Indians, known as Arickarees, established permanent villages. These agricultural tribesmen raised corn, beans, squash and a narrow-leaf native tobacco. Women tended the gardens, while men hunted, fished and traded furs and agricultural products with other Indian tribes, including Cheyenne, Crow, Arapaho and Kiowa.

It was the introduction of smallpox by white fur traders, and the westward movement of the Dakota Sioux tribes, that disrupted the seemingly peaceful existence of the Arickarees in the mid 1700s. The agriculturally-oriented Indians could not defend themselves against either, so they moved north up the Missouri River, leaving the prarie open to the Dakota Sioux.

Migrating from the east and northeast, the Dakota Sioux generally began to move across the plains over the years, driven out of choice hunting grounds by other Indian tribes. As the English colonies were establishing themselves on America's eastern coast, the Yankton branch of the Dakota Sioux Indians settled along the Missouri River, so both sides of the Arickas, or James River, in the area that was later named for them — Dakotas.

Curious of what lay beyond the reaches of their eastern civilization, European explorers were also making their way west, mapping the vast plains. French fur traders, searching for supplies to re-supply their markets, entered the area. By the 1700s, white traffic through the region had begun, ironically paralleling the movement of the Dakota Sioux into what is now Yankton County.

CHAPTER 2

More than 150 years before South Dakota became a state, France laid claim on the vast reaches of land west of the Mississippi River. Henry Clay had said the land was too much for the Mississippi to its west.

By 1762, the fortunes of the French and Indian War began to favor the British. In order to save its territory from being claimed by England, the King of France ceded his possessions west of the Mississippi to his cousin, Charles II, King of Spain, with the Secret Treaty of Fontainebleau.

Little thought occurred between the two European nations about the ownership rights of the Indians. The French king had simply assumed a possession of the land, and deeded it to Spain, apparently on the basis that the Indians were to be removed in the transaction. Thus, the Indians were just part of the bargain, along with the prairies, buffalo and trees.

Although it meant little or nothing to them at the time, mainly because none of the tribes understood the concept of "legal ownership," the cession set a precedent which, in later years, would lead to contradictions and conflict between whites and Indians.

During the years of Spanish rule, for trade, mostly by French expeditions, increased along the Missouri River. After 24 years however, France had recuperated from her defeats by Britain and America, and the Napoleon Bonaparte rose to power, began negotiating with Spain to reclaim the land named for King Louis XIV of France - Louisiana Territory.

In 1802, the Treaty of San Ildefonso gave the territory back to France, which troubled then United States President Thomas Jefferson.

While Spain, a relatively weak nation, had control, Jefferson did not have to worry about frontier defense or unhampered use of the Missouri River. But the unpredictable events of Napoleon and France were powers to be feared, especially if Napoleon chose to use the Louisiana Territory in a way to retaliate against the British in Canada.

As a result of his concern, Jefferson instructed Robert R. Livingston, the United States minister in France, to either stop requisition or make an offer to France to buy New Orleans.

France relented over the first offer. But after a month of delays and indecision, Napoleon played an indirect role in the history of South Dakota and Yankton County by agreeing to sell not only the port city, but the entire territory.

For $15,000,000, outright and the assumption of $3,750,000 in citizen's claims, the United States bought Louisiana Territory on April 30, 1803. Adding interest, the final bill totalled $27,287,829, equalling about three cents per acre. The United States Federal government purchased the land area on December 20, 1803. Again, however, no consideration was given to the rights of the Indians.

The final treaty of the Louisiana Purchase did not specify boundaries, but Jefferson was sure it included the lands drained by the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, about 828,000 square miles. With a $2,500 appropriation from Congress, the president funded an expedition under Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, the explorers of the newly-acquired territory.

Led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, exploration of the newly-acquired territory had four purposes: to follow the Missouri River to its source, seek a water route to the Pacific and make careful records of soils, animal and vegetable life, minerals and geography.

The importance of the Lewis and Clark expedition to Yankton County was largely indirect. It served essentially to spur greater traffic to the area. But the explorers did travel through the region with their iron-reinforced keelboat and two canoes.

Lewis and Clark passed the mouth of the James (or Jacques River) on August 20, 1804, and camped on the Dakota side of the Missouri River, about one mile north of the James River and St. Helen's Island.

It was presumed that the travelers visited a Yankton Sioux village known as "Little Harbor", just west of what was to become Mission Hill, overlooking the James River. The Lewis and Clark journal reads: "40 lefjacques River, nine miles south They are made of dressed b skins, painted red and white, handsome."

Lewis and Clark spent four days here, exploring the country with the clause "the first formal council held representatives of the United native inhabitants of this terr for ing to George Washington's V Territory history.

After the expedition passed and more fur traders navigated the Missouri River and its tributary business flourished in the first 19th century. Buffalo and deer as well, beaver, muskrat, mi badger fur, were in great demand between whites and Indians, beads, blankets, knives, kettle other trinkets and tools were treasured in return for bears animal skins, delivering warrants to both.

Unfortunately, conflicts are

CHAPTER

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Lewis and Clark Marci, C. 1968.
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Louis XIV of France - 

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Clark journal reads: "40 lodges are on the Missouri River, nine miles from the Missouri. They are made of dressed buffalo and elk skins, painted red and white, and are very handsome."

Lewis and Clark spent four days in the area, beginning with the Yankton Sioux, "the first formal council held between the representatives of the United States and the native inhabitants of this territory," according to George W. Kingery's Vol. 1 of Dakota Territory history.

After the expedition passed through, more and more for trappers navigated on the Missouri River and its tributaries as their business flourished in the first half of the 19th century. Buffalo and deer skins, as well as wolf, beaver, muskrat, mink, coon and badger fur, were of great demand. Trade between whites and Indians increased, as beads, blankets, knives, kettles and various other trinkets and tools were given to the trappers in return for harvesting the fur-bearing animals, delivering considerable wealth to both.

Unfortunately, conflicts arose as well.

CHAPTER 3

T4

The search for more furs brought more white men into the territory after the Lewis and Clark Expedition. With them came more hunting, yet not much or much for their resource. Greed prompted some whites to offer exorbitant prices to the Indians, and it was inevitable for disagreements to develop between trappers and the growing numbers of profitable Indians. The quest for sought wealth and opportunity on the new frontier.

Following several clashes between whites and Indians, a commission was authorized by Congress to secure peace treaties with various tribes along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Heading the effort in the Missouri region was General Henry Atkinson.

Guns, blankets and tobacco were presented as gifts to the Indian tribes in what was called the Yellowstone Expedition of 1825 (named for its ultimate destination). Yankton Sioux were among the Native Americans who signed a treaty of friendship and received gifts as the expedition made its way up the Missouri River in shallow-bottomed keelboats, featuring hand-operated paddle wheels invented by General Atkinson.

In all, the 12 treaties of the Yellowstone Expedition represented the first formal documents entered into with the Indians of the Upper Missouri by the United States government. However, they were primarily non-controversial expressions of mutual goodwill and did not involve concessions or the question of land ownership.

By 1843, the demand for furs began to decline sharply and a massive wealth switched from beaver hats to silk stovepipe styles. But the great migrations to California and Oregon were just beginning.

As settlers began moving westward, United States military forces were moved into areas of travel to protect them and establish government authority. As a result, General William Selby Harney led a military expedition from St. Louis through Nebraska, en-route to Fort Laramie, where the troops parlayed the Indians gathered there. Marching eastward into what is now South Dakota on the return trip, the expedition made it to Fort Pierre late in 1855. (The dilapidated, yet once flourishing for trading post, owned by Pierre Chouteau Jr., was to be purchased by the army for the establishment of government authority over the region. At the same time General Harney was his way to Fort Laramie, six infantry companies arrived at Fort Pierre to rejuvenate the post in preparation for the coming of cavalry units.

Although he and his troops spent the winter there, General Harney found the conditions at Fort Pierre decidedly unsatisfactory, and in the spring made arrangements for the army to abandon the post and build Fort Randall, approximately 180 river miles downstream.

Fort Randall isn't in Yankton County, but the same year it was established, an officer on the roster there - Captain John Blair Smith Todd - decided to resign his military commission and capitalism, if he could, on the developmental potential of land in Dakota country. He was to have an important influence on the birth of Yankton County.

Missouri River. But with the decreasing profitability in the fur business, the company turned instead to land speculation and town development, viewing land acquisition and manipulation even more profitable than storekeeping and trading. The company's efforts, however, were hampered by the need to extingnish title to the land held by the Indians, whose ownership rights by that time were officially guaranteed by the United States government.

Ultimately, a strategy for negotiating a treaty with the Indians was developed by Todd. Figuring prominently in Todd's plans were Charles F. Picotte, born of a French father and a Dakota Indian mother, and Strike-Bee-Ree, a leading chief of the Yankton Sioux.

Picotte was the educated son of Honore Picotte, a trader, trader and agent for Pierre Chouteau Jr. & Co. In 1835, the 24-year-old Charles returned to his mother's tribe from St. Louis. Because of his training, physical stature and leadership traits, he became an influential member of the Yankton band under Strike-Bee-Ree.

Popularly known by whites as Old Strike, the Yankton chief had been the subject of two historical legends, one involving Lewis and Clark and the other dealing with the Arikara, or Ree, tribe.

In the fall of 1804, during their passage through what was to become southeastern South Dakota, Lewis and Clark supposedly wrapped a small Indian child in an American flag, symbolizing the birth of friendship. Legend has it (although there is no specific documentation) that the youngest grow up to be chief of the Yankton.

The second tale had to do with Old Strike's namesake sources told him either Strike-Bee-Ree, or Struck-by-the-Ree. The latter title stemmed from an inter-tribal battle during which the then young child was defeated in hand-to-hand combat by an Arikara opponent (he was said to have worn a scarf on his head for the rest of his life to hid the scars of partial scalpeling). The first name reverses the victor and victim, with the chief avenging the murder of his brother by driving a spear through the heart of an Arikara warrior.

Todd hoped to use the chief's influence to gain permission of the Indians' land. Picotte was chosen as an interpreter and "salesman" for the proposal of cession. In return for his services Picotte was promised a considerable grant of land.

As negotiations began, Old Strike was assigned to the inevitability of settlement. He said to his fellow tribesmen:

The whites are coming like maggot. It is useless to resist them. They are many more than we are. We could not hope to stop them. Many of our brave warriors would be killed, we would not stop them. We must accept, the best of their ways and try to adopt their ways.

Despite some resistance, namely by another chief named Smouty Bear, Picotte succeeded in talking 14 Indian leaders into forming a delegation to go to Washington, D.C., to work out an agreement for a cession treaty.

In Once Their Home, written by Frances Chamberlain Holley, Picotte described part of the trek which began on December 11, 1857:

We had two wagons, with four horses on each. Sometimes we would break down, some-
Lyman established a government ferry and a small trading post on the east bank of the James River, where the trails to Sioux Falls City (as it was then called) and Iowa settlements crossed. Lyman later took charge of the Fort, Todd and Company operation at the Santa Fe's village.

Licensed trading activity, such as that operated by Fisk and Lyman, was condensed, and probably even welcomed, by the Indians, so it continued without a problem prior tocession. The Indians were not particularly concerned about whites on their land during the waiting period, but when the settlers attempted to establish buildings or circumvent treaty stipulations, the Indians became annoyed.

Before the cession treaty was ratified, Ben Stafford, from Sioux City, traveled to the Upper Missouri forts with a government supply train. On his return trip, in 1857, he organized a party of Iowans to enter Dakota and file claims on the promising land he had seen east of the James River. The group included W.P. Holman and his son C.J., Gilbert Bowe, Stephen Saunders, Curtis Lamb, Harry Naveas and one or two others. Many years later, C.J. remembered:

"We made our way up on the Nebraska side to a place called La Neer, about seven miles below Yankton . . . We crossed the Missouri River at La Neer, packing our outfit on our backs to the Jim River crossing. The Jim was over its banks, and we had waded through water the entire distance. Here, finding dry land, we took a brief rest, and then went on to the townsite of Yankton . . . Some four weeks after going into camp, the Indians took us across the river into Nebraska, where we built a log cabin, intending to remain until the treaty with the Indians should be ratified . . ."

In May of 1858, the Holman party cut logs and hauled them to the townsite, where the cabin was laid and about a dozen foundations. They only managed to build one cabin, however, mainly because of harassment from the Indians, whom they finally appeased with a feast and show of friendship.

That log house was the first structure built on the site of Yankton. But it was only permitted to remain until October, when the Sioux finally burned it to the ground and again drove the Holmans back to Nebraska.

Because the treaty did not yet give the United States a detachment of United States troops from Fort Randall helped with chasing the over-awesomites whites out of the still unceded territory and later along the Minnesota and other points along the Missouri River.

Charles Picotte later wrote:

"We came pretty near having a fight before the treaty was ratified. The whites would come over from Nebraska, put up their tents near the mouth of the Yankton, Vermillion and Smutty Bear Bottom. I had about forty Indians up with me on one occasion to explain to them that the treaty was not ratified and that they had no right there. As a result, effects away, for we should certainly burn their houses. It wasn't long after the Indians left, that white men began peacefully establishing themselves on the former domain of the Sioux."

CHAPTER 5

Even before the Yankton Indians relinquished their land to the whites, traders had set up shop within their territory, and over time they tested the tribesmen's patience by building squatter's cabins to wait out ratification.

By an agreement with the Indians, George D. Fisk, a representative of Frost, Todd and Company, filed a tent in March of 1858 near the foot of present-day Walnut Street in Yankton and began trading with the Indians and the few white men who traveled on the military trail between Sioux City and forts to the west. In that capacity, Fisk became known as the first "permanent" white settler in what was to become Yankton County.

Even earlier, in May of 1857, William Penn
CHAPTER 6

Homesteaders were not the first to take advantage of the newly-opened territory. After ratification of the treaty, the first people there sought to vie for potential profits of the land. The greatest competition was for control of townships, especially if territorial capital or county seat designations could be obtained later.

Early domination of a town had many advantages. Providing annuity goods for Indians on the reservation (especially if they could be produced, grown or manufactured within the region), filling army supply orders and providing government-related needs such as legal printing, postal services, road construction and land offices, were included. Hence, the Upper Missouri Land Co., dominated by Frost, Todd and prominent Sioux City pioneers, was established in Old Strike's camp shortly after the Indians left.

It wasn’t long after that, that soon-to-be Yankton County and its seat of government became home to a variety of individuals. As his reward for valuable services and liberality during session negotiations with the Yankton Indians, Charles Picotte was granted 640 acres of land outside of the reservation. He selected a prime tract, which encompassed much of the original townsite of Yankton.

George W. Kingsbury, in his History of Dakota Territory, wrote:

The liberal grants made by the treaty had placed Picotte in an independent position, so far as his material welfare was concerned, and under ordinary good management, his landed estate would have made him the wealthiest man in Dakota... But Picotte was not disposed to conserve his opportunity, and instead of bestowing upon his estate the care of "ordinary good management," he seems to have given it to other consideration than to study how rapidly he could dispose of it. He became a good liver... built a very comfortable home on the corner of the levee on Front Street and the street which bears his name, and here one could see on most any day of the year, from three or four to a dozen Indian squaws—men, women and papooses, who were very royally entertained by Etakecha, as they called their great-hearted host.

Todd's selection was adjacent to Picotte's land at Strike-the-Rese's former village.

As surveyors divided the land into permanent legally definable parcels, the influx of newcomers gradually increased. Typically, the first to arrive were nearly all men, because it was thought that the rigors of frontier expansion were not considered appropriate for the "weaker sex." However, when women did accompany their spouses, or when they came alone, they proved themselves as capable of enduring heat, cold, discomfort and strain of rolling back the wilderness as men.

In 1869, John Stannage, a former soldier with the Sully Expedition from Ft. Ridgely to Ft. Pierre, brought his wife Bridget (considered to be one of the first women in the territory), and their first two children, to set up a permanent homestead on a 160-acre claim on the east side of the James River. There he established a rope ferry, two miles or so downstream from the government crossing and Frost and Todd's trading post.

Stannage also received a commission as the James River postmaster.

Thomas K. and Mary Frick, with their infant daughter, established a claim on the government crossing on the James River the same year. The Henry Arend and J.B. Greenway families set up housekeeping nearby.

Formerly from New Hampshire and Wisconsin, (where he had operated a furniture store) Joseph Henss took a claim east of Picotte's land. Settling to the north of Hanson, was James M. Stone, who had operated the government crossing for a time on the James River, and who served as a surveyor. Obad Foote settled on the high ground between Picotte and Todd. Others,
CHAPTER 7

Construction in and around Yankton was not easy in the early days of settlement. Wood was scarce on the riverfront, except for useless river willows and a few stands of cottonwoods, and there was no sawmill yet, so lumber had to be hauled from the nearest mill at North Bend, Nebraska, 35 miles away. Some logs, however, were floated across the Missouri from Nebraska, and the buildings they became were crude and unprefectentious, with dirt floors and sod roofs.

Building a home on the treeless prairie was also a challenge, as thousands of Dakota settlers began staking claims throughout the area in the mid to late 1860s. Many built sod houses because of the scarcity of wood and the commercial lumber was too expensive.

The "soddy" was often the first home of a young bachelor or newlyweds on the prairie, as they began "proving up" the 160 acres granted to them by the land office after the passage of the Homestead Act in 1862. Nothing was standard about the sod house. They were built in all sizes and shapes on the ground and in hillside dugouts, but most were never bigger than a 16'x20' single room.

After the homesteader scratched out his foundation lines on the ground, he used a walking plow, drawn by oxen, to turn a furrow a foot or more wide, cutting sod bricks from

In the midst of our relatively high standards of living today, it behooves us to pause to reflect upon this Clive Sod House, which was a typical homestead in the early days of our pioneer ancestors who moved into this area and found little or no timber for construction purposes.

CHAPTER 8

Newcomers to Dakota were anxious for official federal recognition, but the first entity, a "squatters' government," set up at Sioux Falls, was a premature effort, based on a fictionalized "California Dream figure," which didn't impress Congress at all. Two delegations did, however, go to Washington, D.C., in 1857 and 1858, to discuss territorial status, so the region had some exposure at the national level, but not enough for serious consideration.

In November of 1859, Todd chaired a meeting in Yankton, during which Dakotah promoters drafted a memorial to Congress. This was commissioned to deliver to Washington, D.C., but he failed to overcome the reticence of national politicians who were trying to deal with the question of slavery and recover from the effects of the Panic of 1857. (Southern Democrats were not interested in extending voting rights to the Native American tribes, and the Panic resulted in over 15,000 business failures in the United States).

But Dakota persistence prevailed and in January of 1861, Todd was sent back to Washington, D.C., with a petition signed by 578 settlers in the Missouri River Valley. This time, the legislation was rushed through without debate and on March 2, 1861, two days before President James Buchanan's term ended, the territorial bill was signed into law.

When news of the establishment of Dakota Territory reached Yankton on March 15, Moses Armstrong wrote: "Hats and hurras were heard in the dawn future of the great Northwest," and "an occasional drink of "Beavem's Best" went down in legal and organised quantities."

Unfortunately, tragedy had struck Yankton County just prior to the signing of territorial legislation. In February, a vicious blizzard hit the area, killing George Fisk, the region's first permanent white resident.

Fisk had just returned from a brief employment in Franklin, Nebraska, and was living with George Pike and Moses Armstrong in the latter's cabin near Yankton. Fisk had been at the Ash Inn on February 10, and despite owner's urging that he stay the night, Fisk insisted on walking home. Three days later, Armstrong sadly witnessed the results of those dire consequences in a letter to Fisk's brother.

Through dispensation of Divine Providence, it becomes my painful duty to record to you the mournful news of the sudden and unexpected death of your noble and generous brother. He became lost and strayed from the road last Sunday night while returning from town to our house about one mile distant. The night was one of the most terrible and dangerous with storms of an extraordinary kind ever beheld in this country. ... George was obliged to face the storm on his course home. The wind, however, having been from the southeast about four o'clock, he became estrayed from the road and was forced to turn to left, still partially facing the wind, and having become hardened, bewildered, and although he was not half a mile from home, such friends, his last full of death and for help was drowned amid the raging of the howling elements.

He was found on Tuesday morning lying upon his face on top of the crust of snow which was several feet deep under his face and the other end of the snow. The entire crowd came out in search of him, and when about one-fourth mile off it brought into town and I sec five and remained with him assisting me, all that day and his joints in warm bags, in my bent limbs into form and We succeeded and he was morning and buried this afternoon in this respectful manner.

King's History of Dakota presented an eerie footnote: H.O. Asch was one of the that discovered the lifelike unfortunates man and assisted his body for burial. Fisk had leather mittens the night he when found, his hands were tore and held a small ball of ice from the snow he had gathered. These mittens were left there as no one cared to take them placed them on a shelf where out of the away, as he didn't find them into the street. He never to interfere with them, and d in the least superstitions, but number of years after, these turn up before him in the places and at the most eines and he never could account for

CHAPTER 9

The new Dakota Territory's entity, encompassing all the North Dakota, South Dakota as well as parts of Wyoming and \(250,000 \) square miles were risk for settlement, but as a new home to a very scanty non-Indians. Nevertheless, the new art of green governmental officials and Lincoln was to name the officials, but the storm clouds gathering in the south over treatment of the Indians, and the fact that the nation was on the verge of a rebellion, had effect on the development of government. Because he had been a resister for some 20 years, his personal stake in its future to be the ideal man, the candidate, for the governorship. But several reasons dash he patiently waited in the will Howard Roberts Lamar, South Dakota Territory, 1861-1869, explain A slender man of pleasant manner, somewhat florid style of speech had what his contemporaries describe as a "definite air" of authority. He lived at home in all Washington political circles. Strangely, despite his ill health, he lived long and with an impressive beard, many of the qualities of a "Reformation" leader of the day, a "Beavem Pointe." But carrying his silver and not being a look at the type who would clear the bare Dakotas. And sin
Dakota were anxious for recognition, but the first "ra" government, "set up at premature effort, based on population figures, which suggests at all. Two delega-
to Washington, D.C., to discuss territorial status, so some exposure at the but not enough for serious

of 1859, Todd chaired a ton, during which Dakota a memorial to Congress. his body to the consumers, but he failed to overcome politicians who were the question of slavery and effects of the Panic of 1857, and non-slave states, and the States. existence prevailed and in Todd was sent back to

when signed by "Missouri River Valley." a legislation was rushed debate and on March 2, before President James ended, the territorial bill was

in the establishment of Dakota Territory on March 13, when "Hats and Smokes Passed the dazzling future of the and "an occasional drink without in brave men and ties."

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August 1

which was several feet deep, with one hand under his face and the other extended upon the snow. The entire community were [sic] in search of him, and when found he was about one-fourth mile off the road. He was brought into town and I secured a room with fire and remained with him, other friends assisting me, all that day and night, wrapping his joints in warm rags, in order to be able to bear his limbs into form and lay him a coffin. We summoned and he was laid out this morning and buried this afternoon in a very respectful manner.

Kingston's History of Dakota Territory presented an eerie footnote to Pink's death: H.C. Ash was one of the searching party that discovered the lifeless remains of the unfortunate man and assisted in preparing his body for burial. Fisk had worn a pair of leather mittens the night he was frozen and when found, his hands were tightly clutched and held a small ball of ice that had formed from the snow he had gathered in his mittens. These mittens were left at the Ash Hotel and no one cared to take them away, Mr. Ash placed them on a shelf where they would be out of the way, as he didn't feel like throwing them into the street. He never had any desire to interfere with them, and denies that he is in the least superstitious, but says that for a number of years after, these mittens would turn up before him in the most unexpected places and at the most unreasonable times, and he could never account for it.


democrat, Lincoln could ill afford to appoint him to an office which traditionally went to a political spoilsmen. Moreover, he was a cousin of Mrs. Lincoln's, and his appointment might have laid the President open to charges of nepotism at a time when Lincoln's prestige was already perilously low.

Daniel Frost, Todd's ex-partner, laid the final blow to shatter Todd's dreams, for as President Lincoln was considering the Dakota Territory appointments, Frost led a brave attempt to seize the United States arsenal in St. Louis for the Confederacy. He later joined the secessionist army and ultimately became a brigadier general.

With Todd eliminated from consideration because of his close association with Frost, President Lincoln turned to his loyal friend and neighbor, Dr. William Jayne of Springfield, Illinois, to head the government of the vast Dakota Territory. The 36-year-old physician had served the president's family in Springfield. Tall and lanky, with a hawk-like nose and piercing eyes, he said he was had had a strong temper. One of his colleagues described him as "a neighbor of the Pre's, a clever man, a tolerable shrewd ward politician, but without any appreciation of statesmanship and wholly unable to meet the present crisis."

Other appointees included: Chief Justice Philomena Blairs, a former abolitionist congresswoman from Ohio; Secretary John Hutchens, a young and ambitious attorney who had also been an anti-slave activist in Kansas; Attorney General William E. Glesson from Maryland; Surveyor General George D. Hill, described as a political opportunist who had an "involving affection for violence and an unfailing instinct for speculation"; and Madison William Shaffer from Missouri (he left after a short time to join the Union army).

Assigned to establish a government in a sparsely populated wilderness, the newly appointed officers first had to locate the temporary territorial capital. Competition was strong between Sioux Falls, then the most flourishing village in the territory; Vermillion, the second largest and growing rapidly with the influx of settlers; and the fledgling Yankton, just beginning to take shape as a legitimate town.

It was apparent that the ultimate choice of Yankton could be credited to Todd because of his relating to the papers: although very specific documentation has ever been found. Nevertheless, the territory officials made their way to the town, where their presence would open up a new page in Yankton County's history.


tion of Dakota Territory was a mammoth entity, encompassing all the future states of North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana, as well as parts of Wyoming and Idaho. The 350,000 square miles were rich in potential for settlement, but as a new territory, were home to a very scanty non-Indian population.

Nevertheless, the new settlers who were there, needed governmental leadership. President Lincoln was to name the first governing officials, but the storm clouds of rebellion gathering in the south overshadowed all other domestic concerns, and the fact that the Dakota Territory was born at such a dramatic time in the nation's history, had a substantial effect on the politics of the day.

Because he had been a resident of Dakota Territory for some 20 years, and because of his personal stake in its future, Todd seemed to be the ideal man, the most obvious candidate, for the governor of the new territ-

ory. But several reasons dashed his hopes as he impatiently waited in the wings.

Howard Roberts Lamar, in his book Dakota Territory, 1861-1868, explained: A slender man of pleasant appearance and somewhat florid style of speech, he [Todd] had what his contemporaries were apt to describe as a "noble countenance." He was easily at home in all Washington social and political circles. When he was first ident-
ified, with an impressive beard, he combined many of the qualities of a Kentucky gentle-
man with those of a professional West Pointer. But carrying his silver-headed cane and wearing his spectacles, he naturally seemed the type who would choose to settle the bare Dakotas. And since he was a

Due to the banks that gave the terrain a barren appear-

ance.

When Governor Jayne and Hutchinson arrived in Yankton on May 28, 1861, they saw a motley cluster of log cabins and rough board structures. The look of a government, for which was later purchased, but tillers were questionable. Streets, muddy or dusty, depending on the weather, were vaguely located. Even the crudest accommodation for a government office, let alone living quarters and eating facilities, was virtually non-exis-
tent.

The Governor's first official act, after he finally established his office in a log cabin, was to call for a census. After the figures were totaled, 2,776 souls (including mixed bloods, but not Indians) were counted throughout the territory (although the numbers were no doubt inaccurate because of the resi-


dent of a northern district were unavailable, due to a buffalo hunt). The Yankton district reported 397 people — 278 whites and nine half-breeds.

After the census, Governor Jayne called for the first general election to be held on September 16, 1861. Most of the territory's officials were presidential appointees, but the Dakotas had the responsibility of selecting a delegate for Federal Congress the choice members of their two-house legislature — nine councilmen and 13 representatives. (Customarily, women were excluded from voting procedures, so only "free white males" were eligible to vote or hold office, as long as they were United States citizens).

The impending election drew a flurry of interest for the pioneers for several reasons. Frontier existence was often tiresome and boring, so political involvement brought a welcome change to their day-to-day lives. In addition, the first Dakotas were anxious to have a say in the future of their territory.

Moses Kimball Armstrong, surveyor, jour-

nalist and politician, described the first Dakota Territory election as, "wide open, red-hot and mighty interesting." He wrote in his book The Early History of Dakota Territory, of candidates and campaign speakers gathering in Sioux City from whom they would "charge across the Sioux to attack the bewildered voters with spread eagle speeches, torch-light parades, gun and drum and bottles labeled 'fire water.'"

Armstrong added:

These campaign parties traveled in caval-
cadres made up of men on foot, on horseback and with a band wagon. Musicians were hired to furnish the music and to do the fighting at the meetings, the lawyers were to make the

CHAPTER 11

On Monday, March 17, 1862, members of the first territorial legislature gathered in the frontier capital, which boasted 19 varied structures. According to one observer's diary on that date, they were comprised of "one hotel, two boarding houses, one saloon, one store, two legislative halls, a secretary's office, one Surveyor General's and Governor's office and seven log buildings, six of which are occupied.

In his opening message, read by a secretary (the chief executive had not yet returned to the capital) Governor Jayne instructed his legislature to provide adequate civil and criminal law; to devise financial, educational, electoral and military systems; to build roads to prohibit slavery and (contradictorily) to support the Union in the "impassioned rebellion" and the "homestead law.

The speech was ordered to be printed and copied and distributed to the Dakota Territory. The place: 2,000 in English, 600 in Norwegian, 400 in German and 200 in French, which illustrated how the area was early becoming home of a "melting pot" population.

After hearing from the Governor (in absentia) the legislators set to work. Armstrong observed, "This is the first legislature in the territory, and the two houses constitute a regular 'steen team,' each trying to turn the yokel in the other... However, the members are all going to hell in a handbasket and will begin to pull true in a few days."

(Armstrong, who had been quoted previously, had a keen sense of pioneer politics. He was one of the first to establish a home in Dakota Territory, and although only 29 years old in 1861, he already had ten years of frontier experience in Iowa, Minnesota and Dakota. As a member of the first legislative session, he was, as recorded, a rough, humorous style, biographical sketches of his colleagues and a brief account of the proceedings of that now too august body.)

Yankton County was among the first to be incorporated during the "Pony Express," as the first territorial legislature was known, on April 10, 1862. Other items of business attended to by the lawmakers in their short session included prohibiting swine and stalled animals from running free, granting citizenship to a free black man, licensing forgeries among various territorial rivers, outlawing gambling and hawdy houses (which never really stopped in practice), upholding sanctity of the Sabbath, and organizing the Dakota militia to protect the territory against Confederate or Indian attacks.

In addition, Yankton was officially named territorial capital. Armstrong noted that when the Dakota legislature considered the legislation, "Excitement ran to a high pitch during a few days on the last stages of the bill. A little blood was shed, much whiskey drunk, a few eyes blacked, revolvers drawn, and some running down. A few kept sober, stood at the wheel, cleared the shouts, and steered the bill through the darkness."

Because of the seriousness of their job, Dakota Territory legislators enjoyed a bit of horseplay to break the tedium of their deliberations. Armstrong, in a dispatch to the Sioux City Register, wrote:

For three nights before the adjournment, campfires could be seen in the streets from dusk till daylight, around which was seated, wig-wam style, an electioneering party of counselors and representatives happily drinking, smoking, eating, singing, shouting, speech-making and milking cows. I happened to cross the street one morning at the peep of day, and there I beheld around a somnolent camp-fire, two lusty legislators [Charles Maliney and John McElvride] holding a kick- ing cow by the horns and a third [John Stanage] pulling its full weight upon her horizontal tail. On either side of the milkless beater sat two counselors [Dawes Bramble and Eno Stoteman] flat upon their unfailing foundations, with pails in hand, making sorrowful and vain attempts at teasing milk enough from the farrow quadrupled for their final picker of "egg-egg.". One of the legislators, on his side, by a copulative representative, [Hosea Green] sprawled upon his bally and convulsed with laughter. And there in front of the arena stood another eloquent law-maker [John Story] with his bare feet and boots off, making a military speech and aping the soothing of the cow to give down in behalf of her country.

According to Armstrong's prolific pen, one of the most important laws enacted before the Pony Congress adjourned its first session in May of 1862, was one preventing Indians from entering the ceded lands of Dakota Territory. Without a written pass from their agent or guardian, they found trespassing could be arrested. "This law throws a safeguard around the timid emigrants who have hitherto been kept out of the territory through fear of the red man's ghost, he wrote."

Ironically, the law was passed only months before a major Indian scare test the settlers' will to stay in Dakota Territory.

CHAPTER 12

When the "Pony Congress" established Yankton County among others, in 1862, the governor appointed officials of the territorial entity. Each was to hold office until the formal election on September 1, 1862. William Bordenico (sometimes spelled Borden) was appointed to the office of superintending the safeguard of deeds, as well as clerk of the board of commissioners. Other officers were: William Miner, sheriff; J.R. Hanson, judge and ex-office county judge; J.M. Stone, county treasurer; N.B. Weller and J.S. Prescho, justices of the peace. Otis B. Wheeler, Dr. Justin Towneend and Henry Bradley were county commissioners.

After the appointments, Judge Philomeno Blass administered the oath of office to the new county officials. Kingsbury noted that the "event was looked upon with more importance that it was appreciated in accordance with front"

The organization of county courts was the first county meeting on June 2, 1862.

Although the governor did not attend county court meetings, they were held under the laws of 1862. The county officers elected: William Miner, registrar; Samuel Prescho, treasurer; Samuel Prescho, justice of the peace; county attorney, J.M. Stone, probate judge; A.D. Fisher, co. Wheeler remained on the county board, along with his new neighbors, N.W. Borg and D.C. K.

It wasn't until 1876 that there was a building they could call their courthouse (now the Inter of Oddfellows Hall on the corner of Douglass and Yankton) was built in that capacity until 1905, when the present co. officially opened.

CHAPTER

Probably due to several local and county elections, the time for the county elections was set.

On August 17, 12 miles west of Yankton, in 1862, three white men and presumably a group of white men and Prescho, the Justice, arrived at the election.

Another law was enacted that permitted them to have a group of county attorneys present to observe the elections, which was not considered a violation of the election process.

Finally, the law was passed, which provided that the county election was to be conducted in the county seat and not in the township.
Excitement ran to a high pitch lays on the last stages of the battle. was shod, much whisky drank, blacked, revolvers drawn, and done. A few kept sober, stood cleared the shoes, and stared up the darkness." the seriousness of their job, Tory legislators enjoyed a bit of beer, the tension of the battle, Armstrong in a dispatch to the register, wrote: nights before the adjournment, old men seen in the streets from light, around which was seated, in a newspaper and on the streets, all happily oking, eating, singing, nooking, and milking cows. I happened treat one morning at the peak seen him and a snowblind, a two legged legless legless man (John Menhit) kick the horns and a third John ling his full weight upon her. On each side of the millile councilmen (Downer Brantlaman) flat upon their unfailing with pails in hand, making I vain attempts at teasing miles away the farrow crowded for their "egg-yog. Off to one side lay representative, (Hugh Donald- hi his belly and coughing. And there in front of the scene the yard the law was seen drunk, John sat, boot and coat off, making peep and appealing to the fowl to give down in behalf y. Armstrong's prolific pen, one important laws enacted before closed adjourned its first session on August 17, 1860. was one preventing Indians of the ceded lands of Dakota to pass from their lien found trespassing, could be his law threw a safeguard against emigrants who had begin it out of the territory through d man's ghost," he wrote.

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CHAPTER 13 T14

Probably due to several reasons, including late appeals payments, resentment towards treaties and the growing number of white settlers in the region, the tension between whites and Indians was reported in the summer of 1860.

On August 17, 12 miles west of Litchfield, Minnesota, four young farriers attacked and killed a Dakota man. The reason for the attack, presumably after a quarrel over a stolen nest of chickens, was not clear. After the attack, and before it was later attacked and killed a storekeeper. Hungry because no rations had been delivered and their annuity payments had not arrived, the Indians apparently tried to obtain credit from the merchant, who, according to one report, refused and said, "let them eat grass." He was Found on August 18, dead with his mouth stuffed full of grass.

Finally, long pent-up animosities flared up in wholesale rebellion with the so-called "War of the Outbreak." Raising parties swarmed through the Minnesota prairies, killing isolated settlers for revenge.

The bloody drama began in Minnesota, but eight days after the first incident near Litchfield, Judge J.B. Abdon and his son were killed on August 25 as they worked in a hay field near Sioux Falls. When news of the slayings reached Yankton, Governor Jayne proceeded to Yankton, even male citizens between 18 and 50 must enroll into home defense units in all Dakota counties. The proclamation said:

The order was planned for a stockade, built large and strong enough to withstand a major Indian attack because the Yankton tribe would join the Sioux on the warpath.

Armstrong wrote: Immediately upon the heels of the bloody rumors from Minnesota, came the news of the murder of two men in the vicinity of Sioux Falls, and soon after that the Yankton were driven into the woods. There they were met and driven to force by the settlers and butcher the inhabitants. Added to this, like fuel to fire, was the news of the next day, down came our delegated commit tee on thirty persons from the Yankton and stated "Mad Bull" had informed them that there were 500 warlike Sioux in our immediate neighborhood, and that we were in danger of being attacked every hour. The Yanktons had declared their neutrality between the tribes and our state with the whites if we were sure to conquer. At this report, the people stood aghast, and for awhile the scales of fate hung trembling between fear and courage - to flee or fight - and it was decided to stand and meet the attack... there was soon at work a force of fifty men, with spades, ax, teams, etc., and before night we had erected breast-works (of stakes) including about five acres of ground and seven buildings, in which had assembled all the families in the town. The attack was made on the stationary at this place... had moved their camp inside of the fortifications, and our small garrison comprised a force of about 150 men... A great number of men were stationed around the station, in the prairie, and it mounted guard was all night scouting on the neighboring hills. The long night was spent in prayer and song, and when the red moon shone in the East, and the watchword came in from the faithful sentinels that no Indian had been seen during the night, all breathed free and thankful.

The fort had been built at the intersection of Third Street and Broadway (near where the Yankton County Courthouse stands today). Reports of its site are conflicting, but its walls were approximately 450 feet long, with the entrance facing the Missouri River. Poles and cottonwood planks with dirt filler made up the east and west walls. Upright cedar logs comprised the southern side. All the lumber in Yankton, plus that which had been ordered to build a new legislative hall, was used to build the fort.

As they continued construction, the settlers learned that Old Strike was trying to maintain peace and order among his tribesmen, but he wasn't sure what could be done. Some of the younger, more militant brave. Another messenger brought news that a band of Indians had fired upon various settlers on the James River and that Sergeant Ahner M. Fuglies, with a detachment of the 2nd Cavalry, had pursued the attackers into high avenge south of the Stance ferry.

The events of that day (September 2, 1863) were recorded by John Stangae Jr., a young man at the time.

Henry Bradley, who with his wife and brother-in-law, had joined the Stance family for their trip to the Yankton Stockade. Henry had gone to the James River for water, and on the way back, he saw several Indians peering over the tall grass. He dropped his bucket and made a mad dash back to the cabin, shouting a warning.

Stangae wrote: My father, quick and alert, grabbed his musket and flew out the door to Bradley's rescue. Just then a volley of shots was fired at Bradley but he entered the cabin unscathed. My father said, "Henry, you take one window, I will take the other, and, John [Bradley], you take the door." John Bradley had no gun, so he took a pickaxe and stood ready to fight to the death if the Indians smashed the door in. My mother put Mary, Jimmy and myself under the bed. My mother and Mrs. Bradley dropped on their knees... and begged God to protect us all. Then [they] prepared to fight... one took an ax and the other a butcher knife. It wasn't long after that, that J.B. Greenway and his wife came galloping into town behind their foaming horses hitched to a lumber wagon. They reported an early morn ing that at their ferry crossing and Greenway claimed to have killed one Indian and wounded another.

Reports of Indian attacks so close to home brought people from Bon Homme and Sioux Falls to the Yankton Stockade. For several weeks, nearly 300 anxious individuals lived in and around the fortification, but hoping it would never come.

Even though the pioneers were caught up in the terror of the Indian revolts, normal territorial activities had to continue. As the Yankton Stockade was being built, the general election, called by the first legislature, was held on September 18, 1863.

The election was carried by a majority for the congressional delegate seat, with Todd and Jayne as contenders. Jayne had "offered" the seat to Todd, who at the urging of the Governor, even before returns from several precincts had come in, went to the Congress when he was electe election. Todd regained his seat as delegate with a recount vote of 344 to 256, with 80 ballots thrown out. A company of Iowa soldiers from Fort Randall took leave on election day expecting to be called up for militia. They were told not to vote for Jayne, hence the invalid ballots.

After the election, Dr. Jayne returned to his medical practice in Illinois, and territorial secretary John Hutchinson became acting governor until a new chief executive could be appointed.

Meanwhile, lumber was being shipped to Yankton to replace that which had been originally intended for contraction to a new territorial legislative hall and instead was used in the stockade. On the northeast corner of Capitol and Fourth Streets, the 54 feet 62 feet two-story frame building, credited to Pickler's idea, was built in a hurry. The building was completed on December 24.

We attended a dance at Pickler's Capital building last Friday evening - and enjoyed a "high old time." The party was well attended, the guests in the best of spirits, and the affair passed off peacefully and that we anxiously await a return of our festivities.

The building served many varied uses, including a church, school, dance hall, theater, public forum and as the meeting site of Dakota territorial legislature.

Moses Armstrong, on December 8, 1862, wrote of the structure... (the new capital building, planned by Secretary Hutchinson, is a structure of systematic proportions, roccy and convenient, offering ample seating under one roof for the three branches of territorial government - legislative, judicial
Indian scores continued in the area throughout 1863. One incident occurred in Yankton County on May 25 of that year. J.A. Jacobson and Thomas W. Thompson were attacked by an unidentified band of Indians as they slept in a wagon at Greenway's ferry crossing east of the county seat. Jacobson was killed immediately, and Thompson mortally wounded. The truck wagon was stripped and burned by the warriors with an arrow in the back of his neck as he ran for security in Greenway's cabin.

The Weekly Dakota of May 12, 1863, reported that 123 stockaded homes had been built by the Indians, of the lamented Jacobson, is but five miles from Yankton—one of the most populous settlements in Dakota—and directly on the main thoroughfare between us and Sioux City. Naturally, our farmers feel insecure and seek the security of town every evening at nightfall. How much longer must this state of affairs continue?

Even prior to the newspaper's plea, acting Governor Hutchinson in a letter dated May 13, 1863, to Brigadier General John Cook, in Sioux City, Iowa, he wrote: Sire: on the 10th ultimo I made a requisition upon you for three companies of soldiers, to be stationed at different points in this Territory, to which you have never seen fit even to reply.

Ferry, on the James River, about 4 miles from this place (the capital), and another man wounded. This must increase the alarm which has heretofore existed. The people are not secure in their homes, and we must have protection at once, or more lives will be lost and the territory abandoned. I hope, General, you will give this sufficient consideration to act upon it, or give it at least a reply.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

John Hutchinson
Acting Governor

Before the end of May, 800 soldiers had passed through Yankton, indicating that something was being done about the Indian situation.

Armstrong said in a May 26 commentary: We are beginning to receive protection. Captain Tripp's fine company of Dakota Cavalry arrived here on last Friday, and were greeted with the firing of cannon, the waving of flags and the cheers of the people . . . Dakota may well feel proud of this company and its gallant captain; we are now protected by our own soldiers. It is to be thought that two or three cities were required to yield up their blood . . . in order to convey the mind to those in authority that danger was upon us.

Added to the Indian scores, 1863 brought war against the grasshoppers to Dakota Terri
tory. Nevertheless, those who had already settled in and around Yankton County were optimistic, continually promoting their new homeland, hoping more new settlers would join them.

With the passage of the Homestead Act the preceding year, any settler would be granted a 160-acre quarter section if it was improved in five years. The act would ultimately bring thousands of pioneers to Dakota, some of those to Yankton County, in search of the promised lot of free land on which to establish their homes.

Immigration was slow, despite the promise of homestead laws, and editorial writers in the area made the case for The Weekly Dakota as early as June 20, 1861.

To those who intend emigrating to the West, we think the vicinity of Yankton offers some advantages . . . to the farmers who wish to make for themselves rich and valuable farms, or who may desire to establish a permanent business in a young and growing city . . . Until July, 1859, the town site was recognized as the old council grounds of the Yankton Indians . . . Since then the lands have been settled upon and improved by industrious farmers, and the town has been built to a thriving village . . . The men of the towns, however, Dakota promoters took the bull by the horns in order to do a major selling job on behalf of Dakota Territory.

Two of the men who were involved were Surveyor General George D. Hill, appreciated for his agricultural knowledge and experience, and Dr. Walter A. Burleigh, a lawyer and Indian agent for the Yankton tribe, and former doctor from Pennsylvania.

Hill, upon hearing about the Free Home- stead Association formed in Syracuse, New York, got in touch with the secretary of the organization, James S.Foster, and promoted the virtues of Dakota Territory. The association had been organized in order to migrate west en masse, and although competition was tough, Hill wanted to make sure the New Yorkers made their homes in his territory.

In late summer of 1863, he met with representatives of the association when they visited Dakota, looking for the best place to settle. The Missouri Valley area, as a result of the visit and promotions by the territory's "natives," began to look like the most ideal location for the association members. On January 16, 1864, Foster wrote a letter from Syracuse to The Dakotaian editor, saying:

You are doubtless aware of the fact that a number of farmers and mechanics near this city have organized an association for the purpose of emigrating to Dakota next Spring. Our ambition bids fair to be a perfect success . . . Surveyor General Hill was present at a late meeting in this city by invitation and addressed its members on the advantages offered to settlers in the beautiful valley of the Minnesota in Dakota . . . Major Burleigh is expected at our next meeting.

Burleigh traveled to New York to deliver a stirring speech on behalf of Dakota Terri
ty expounding on the potential and produc
tivity of the prairie land, especially in the vicinity of Yankton County. Ultimately the appeal was successful, however, on their way, several families of the almost 500 New York women, men and children, succumbed to a report of Indian massacres and fought in Dakota, so they stayed in Iowa. Others, tired of the long and tedious journey overlaid by wagon and rail, dropped off along the way.

Finally, the association members who did make it to Dakota arrived in mid-May of 1864. "Let them come," the May 17, 1864 edition of The Dakotaian proclaimed. "Uncle Sam is rich enough to give them all a farm!! Some 25 families separated from the wagon train and selected various homestead sites between Yankton and the Iowa border. Others went ahead to the capital and still others traveled farther west to Bon Homme.

The paper added, "Everyday brings us from the Missouri River a story of brave and brave men," with their broods of young New Yorkers . . . They are generally pleased with Dakota and are planning and planting, and, as fast as possible, are getting ready to make Dakota their home.

Although immigration continued its steady trickle into Dakota Territory and the Yankton County area, movement of new settlers was slow, due to Indian scores and drought. Added to the negative aspects of the new territory was another natural disaster that plagued the area. The Weekly Dakota Union, a newspaper started by Kennedy and Armstrong, reported on August 2, 1864.

A terrible flood of great proportions [sic] swept through this whole valley . . . Corn fields were left high and dry, potatoes and other crops that require the soil to remain moist were leaving nothing but the plant and naked stalk standing . . . Potatoes are actually eaten from the green stems. Over 50,000 acres of vegetables and garden vegetables are mowed flat to the earth, all the space of two days, they came down the valley from the northwest, kept and swept through an entire course. Whole groves of young trees, the skins of corn and other crops were literally loaded down or cut to pieces . . . the products of the season have vanished before we like the dew of the morning.

Before that report, Dakota Union had urged the settlers not to be discouraged, but give Dak
ta a trial and this may be the darkest dawn of long years, full of bountiful harvests." Dakota City prevailed in the worst of the

CHAPTER 14

Indian scores continued in the area throughout 1863. One incident occurred in Yankton County on May 25 of that year.

J.A. Jacobson and Thomas W. Thompson were attacked by an unidentified band of Indians as they slept in a wagon at Greenway's ferry crossing east of the county seat. Jacobson was killed immediately, and Thompson mortally wounded. The truck wagon was stripped and burned by the warriors with an arrow in the back of his neck as he ran for security in Greenway's cabin.

The Weekly Dakota of May 12, 1863, reported that 123 stockaded homes had been built by the Indians, of the lamented Jacobson, is but five miles from Yankton—one of the most populous settlements in Dakota—and directly on the main thoroughfare between us and Sioux City. Naturally, our farmers feel insecure and seek the security of town every evening at nightfall. How much longer must this state of affairs continue?

Even prior to the newspaper's plea, acting Governor Hutchinson in a letter dated May 13, 1863, to Brigadier General John Cook, in Sioux City, Iowa, he wrote: Sire: on the 10th ultimo I made a requisition upon you for three companies of soldiers, to be stationed at different points in this Territory, to which you have never seen fit even to reply. In consequence I make a second requisition for immediate protection. Last night Mr. Jacobson was killed by Indians at Grammys [sic]
before us like the dew of the morning. Just before that report, however, The Dakota Union had urged the settlers to "be not discouraged, but give Dakota one year's trial and this may be the dark day before the dawn of long years of prosperity and bountiful harvests." Dakota optimism always prevailed in the worst of times.

CHAPTER 16

Throughout Dakota Territory, the background of the settlers varied. Many came from the eastern seaboard, from families already established in America. Others came from France, Germany, Czechoslovakia, Ireland, Norway, Sweden and other European countries. Dakota Territory was born of a "melting pot" region. Despite the differences in heritage, Dakota pioneers came to develop a special kind of heroism. Settlement of the frontier was not easy — conditions were less than ideal in the pre-state years. But the people who moved to the prairies once populated by the Sioux, had dogged persistence. They prevailed in spite of the elements, insects, and other discouraging factors. As Dakotans, they developed a sense of independence. A quiet and almost self-effacing pride in having heard the adversities of their chosen lot.

Most of the earliest immigrants who settled in Yankton County were native whites. Some, however, referred to as Yankee — those who came from New England, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Ohio. But foreign immigrants made up a large segment of the population in Yankton County. They brought ideas and customs from many sources, which have been pooled in the development of the state's agriculture, industry, government, music, art, drama, handicrafts and even diet. Cultural heritage is still evident all over the county, adding variety and interest among the population.

But variety aside, the people are still South Dakotans, contributing richly to the state.

Coming to Yankton County before statehood presented a challenge to many immigrants to the Dakota Territory. Most arrived with little or no money. Adjustments had to be made for a new physical and social environment. And even though many settlers had farming experience, bringing soil, surviving blizzards, drought, prairie fires and isolation presented a new concept in adaptation.

Autumn seemed to be the most common season for settlers to go out to select their land, often then returning to their old homes for the winter. While searching for the right claim, they often hired professional land locators, then marked their 160 acres to hold it until they returned for permanent residency.

Before railroads, pioneers traveled by ox team in covered wagons on the roads west. Only bare essentials were packed. Priority was given to farm implements and tools, but they also brought a few pieces of light furniture, a stove, kitchen utensils, dishes, clothes, and a few personal possessions. A few head of livestock, usually a cow for milk and maybe a hen or two, accompanied the pioneers for their new forced trek.

"Ingenuity was an important trait to the Dakota Territory settlers. Their first task was to build a home on their claim — whether a soddie (described in Chapter 7), shanty or dugout.

The terms of the Homestead Act, settlers were required to break five acres of their land for farming during the first year. A specially designed breaking plow was used to cut through the tough prairie sod and a team of four oxes or horses pulling a 14-inch plow, could break from one to two acres a day. During the first year, when the land was broken, little was grown in the way of crops. But with years and wheat and other common commodities raised, as the farms became more established.

Crops, fodder, food and wood were major challenges after the settlers staked their claim with their house and broken prairie sod. For those lucky enough to have a spring, water was in abundance. But most pioneers dug wells by hand. Water was also hauled from streams and rivers, and many people kept two or three barrels and melted snow to add to their supply.

Wood was not plentiful on the prairie, so for heat the pioneers depended on burning buffalo and cow chips, twisted hay and corn cob.

Potatoes, carrots, sweet corn, cucumbers, cabbages and onions — "groceries" that could be stored through the winter — were raised in the family garden. Potatoes and carrots were kept in the roof cellar and onions were tied in bundles. When sweet corn was dried, cucumbers were pickled and cabbage was made into sauerkraut. Some settlers raised a calf or pig for meat. Small game also provided meat — all of which was dried or put down in bins. Rags were gathered and put away in barrels of grain for winter use. Milk, from the family cow, was set aside to allow the cream to rise to make butter. Cheese was also made.

No settler could be completely self-sufficient were crops to town were necessary for supplies and services. Livery stables were important for horse and cow shoes, harness and tool repairs. Dry goods stores provided flour, sugar, cloth, needles, thread, boots and shoes. Some of the prairie towns also had doctors or midwives and legal and financial services.

The first few years on the frontier were hard on many families. Some didn't make it and moved back to the more populated eastern regions of the country. Others stayed, working their way through hard times, revealing in the good times and establishing themselves as true South Dakotans.

CHAPTER 17

T18

Many different nationality groups have come to Yankton County to establish farms, towns and organizations. Through the years, cultural assimilation has blended the groups together in South Dakota society, but each nationality has maintained some characteristics of the old country. Many still speak the language of their ancestors.

Bohemian immigration to the United States became strong after a crop-destroying drought, economic depression and revolt in the home country in the 1840s. Prior to 1849, when a law allowing forced labor in Bohemia was passed, the peasants had been under continuous domination of the nobility. They had been indoctrinated with the idea that they should obey the church, obey the government and obey the monarch.

The "archbishop claimed a prior lien on the peasant's soul; the emperor held a chattel mortgage on his body; and the lord usurped the fruits of his labor."

The new world, freedom from oppression and a chance to start over, brought many Czechs to Dakota Territory.

The first Czech homesteads were established miles west of Yankton along the border with Canada and incorporated town in south-central Zavok Township.

The Bohemians who settled in Yankton County represented the largest single nationality group in the county.

They loved music and participated in traditional folk dances, celebrations as well as tenacity and independence.

Most of the Danish people who settled in Dakota Territory were part of the great westward movement to the Midwest in the late 1860s, that continued for several decades. Large numbers of Danes migrated from the Schleswig-Holstein area that was ceded to Germany as a result of the Danish-Prussian War in 1864. They came to the United States to escape compulsory military training, required by the German government at the time.

A large concentration of Danes settled in Yankton, Clay and Turner Counties. Many were Lutherans, while others were members of Methodist, Baptist or Adventist churches.

Most of the Danish settlers established themselves on farms and were among the first to change from grain production to dairying and stock raising.

German Russians also made their home in Yankton County. Natives first of Germany, they migrated to Russia, then to America because of forced military draft, high taxes, political unrest and the lack of freedom to practice German customs in Russia.

Norwegians were the earliest and largest immigrant group to settle in Dakota Territory, the first leaving Norway for America around 1845 because of the diminishing number of arable acres. Glowing reports from relatives who had settled in the United States, attracted many Norwegian immigrants, especially after the passage of the Homestead Act.
Early Blacks having a reunion of some kind in Yankton in the 1890's.

A group of Polish immigrants settled near the town of Lasterville. Many came to America as political exiles as a result of the division of Poland in 1795 between Russia, Prussia and Austria, which caused nearly unbearable economic conditions for the Polish people.

Irish immigrants also came to Yankton County, forced out of their homeland by famine that began in 1846 when their potato crops were destroyed by blight. The Irish people attempted to form a colony, called Waishkohn, northeast of Yankton in the 1860s, but the attempt was unsuccessful. They did, however, continue to live in the region as individual families.

Historian Doane Robinson wrote an account of another Irish attempt at colonization:

"In 1866, John Pope Hodnett, appointed by President Grant as an agent of the Solicitor of Indian Affairs, visited the region, and with the enthusiasm of a youthful Irishman, determined to establish a colony of Irish republicans. He secured a tract of land for himself, and with his family and personal friends to file homesteads at Lalla's Creek, a few miles north of Yankton, where he built a beautiful little house. He named it after his beloved Ireland. He was a man of great energy, and his efforts were successful. In a few years he had a thriving farm, with many fine cattle and horses. Lalla's Creek became a flourishing town, and the Irish colony flourished."

The story of the Irish settlement is a colorful one, full of adventure and hardship, but it also serves as a reminder of the early days of settlement in the Dakota Territory. The region was not easy to live in, but those who came were determined to make a new life for themselves.

CHAPTER 18

Life on the Dakota prairie had its good times, but hardships were common. Blizzards challenged the pioneers in the winter, while spring flooding plagued the prairie and the settlers. The early days were tough, but the settlers persevered and built a new life for themselves in the Dakota Territory.

Torner Hall, now the P & D Building, was the scene of many enjoyable dances. In 1887, Joseph Vinatier (front, center) led this combo, with Cha. Siebert, left, rear, the "prominent" who called the reels and other dances. Wm. Horst bowed the bass, with Wm. Metz on cornet, and Wm. Phillips, second violinist.

Tess Goodale, now the Minneapolis, was a favorite of the settlers. Her sweet voice and pleasant personality made her a favorite of the locals. She would often sing for the settlers, and her music brought joy to their lives.

Songs popular at the birth of Dakota Territory, such as Grandfather's Clock, The Flying Trampers, Little Brown Jug, Captain Jack, probably were still liked enough to have been recorded on the wax cylinders of Edison's phonograph when this photo was made. What a jake-box!

The flood of 1880-1891 was a disaster for the settlers of the Dakota Territory. The heavy rains caused the Missouri River to overflow its banks, causing widespread flooding. The flood waters destroyed crops, homes, and even lives. The settlers were forced to rebuild their homes and lives, but they persevered and continued to live in the region.
about the P&G employees: the scene.

In 1887, Joseph Vintz-Custer ran his hotel on the east end of town. Living conditions were pleasant and comfortable for nearly a week, until the mid-April blizzard engulfed the area.

I was prepared because of extended duty in the mild weather, the steps were ordered to take individual initiative to try and lead their horses to shelter in Yankton's warehouses, stables, and barns. As tents blew down in the strong wind, General Custer lay ill in his cabin, under the care of his wife, while snow blew in through cracks in the walls of the unheated building. Mrs. Custer wrote of the terrifying experience in her book & Saddles.

During the night . . . I found the servants perishing open the frozen and snow-packed door, to admit a half-dozen soldiers who, becoming bewildered by the snow, had been saved by the faint light we had placed in the window. After that second case, and two were badly frozen. We were in despair of finding any way of warming them, as there was no bedding, and, of course, no fire, until I remembered the carpets. . . . We were not to use, until the garrison was reached. Spraying them out, we had enough to roll up each wanderer as he came.

The storm lasted two days, piling snow into huge drifts. The weatherwise Yanktonians organized rescue parties to find the women and children along "Sol's Row," as the landowner's area was called, and all were saved, including a newborn baby.

Because of cooperation, a major disaster was averted, and when the weather cleared, Custer issued a proclamation commending the people of Yankton for preserving "the lives of a great number belonging to this command, besides saving the government the value of public animals mounting to many thousands of dollars."

In the fall of 1880, the future of the Yankton County area and all of Dakota Territory showed great promise. But once again, the forces of nature gathered in wrathful fury. On October 15, 1881, 24-hour snowstorm, unusually severe, blanketed eastern Dakota. The settlers, however, were not particularly concerned, especially those who had lived in the area for many years, because they were sure mild autumn temperatures would dissipate the covering before later snows came.

They were wrong.

The first snows did not melt, and subsequent storms added to it, until the Dakotaans were literally buried under snow from one border to the others. Known as "the hard winter of 1880-1881," the season resulted in the accumulation of more than 2 feet of snow in many Dakota Territory communities.

Hundres of new settlers were caught ill-prepared for the severe winter, because they came too late to build proper homes or lay in provisions, consequently the major hardships were not due to low temperatures, but the scarcity of food and fuel.

Farmers burned twisted hay, straw and ear corn, while those living in town cut up small buildings, fences, and bridges and new lumber from local yards. Some families even moved in together to preserve fuel.

Oil lamps, candles, tallow and lard were also in short supply, so most homes went without light, which was doubly difficult because most log and sod shanties were almost completely covered with snow.

Another blizzard, the worst and longest of the season, hit in February. Ultimately, the settlers' only hope was an early spring. Recording the events of that winter, History of Southeastern Dakota: Its Settlement and Growth reported: "The snowfall of 1880-1881 was unprecedented in the history of the Northwest. From October 15th, 1880, the date of the first snow storm of the season, it seemed as though all the moisture then in the atmosphere, or likely to be in the atmosphere for years to come, had been inspired with an instinct to form itself into snow and precipitate itself on the prairies and in the valleys tributary to the Big Sioux River. Not only were the snow falls immense in volume, but they followed each other with provoking promptness, and a stride for ascendancy, worthy of a better cause. By the beginning of 1881, the railroad was hopelessly blocked; the mails only came at intervals and provisions and fuel began to get scarce. By the middle of February, actual discomfort began to stare those in the face, who, under ordinary circumstances, were able to procure food and fuel. What shall be said, then, of the anxieties of those who had neither food, fuel nor money? It was indeed one of those seasons that recall to our minds, that in the great scale of existence, the whole family of mankind are upon a level with each other. The capitalist, as well as the dweller in the sod shanty, was compelled to take his coffee "straight" - sugar was a luxury not to be had. They each had to gather their robes around them, to keep warm, and in this regard, the poor man having nothing in private, had not the dread of the keen wind blowing across miles of snow, that his more opulent neighbor had. . . . the poor man without a cent of money getting his "ration" the same as the man with his pocket filled with cash. Thus passed February and March, every one hoping that winter would let up with April - and it did.

Probably the worst blizzard experienced by
Dakota settlers were the so-called "school children's storm" on January 12, 1888.

The day dawned balmy and pleasant, but suddenly rain, then sleet and granular snow began to fall. The blizzard raged across the territory for more than 12 hours. Men were trapped in their fields, livestock wandered aimlessly, then were stuck in drifts and froze to death. Many youngsters had been dismissed early from their schools, with the hope that they would make it home before the storm reached its peak. Unfortunately, many were victims of the winter onslaught. All together, 112 people perished in the southern half of the territory.

Springtime flooding, especially after winter's heavy with snow, left a path of destruction in its wake. When the ice on the Missouri River broke, in the nineteenth century before flood control and dams, there was no telling how far the water would spread. George W. Kinney described the ice breakup in 1862:

The water finally broke over the Missouri bank between Picotte Street and Rhine Creek at Yankton, swept across the valley of the James, covering the lowlands and forming a vast ice sheet 11 miles broad and 30 miles long. Travel between Yankton and Sioux City was confined to row boats, and the mails were carried in small skiffs. Parties who patronized the boats followed the stage route as near as practicable and enjoyed themselves spear- fishing along the way that weighed from 12 to 30 pounds each, if they told the truth about it.

Greenwys ferry hauled freight during the flooding and Yankton's ships were last in what was to become known as Rodolph Hill.

After the snows of the winter of 1880-1881 began melting, more disaster came to Yankton County with devastating floods. The main drainage of the Missouri River, which runs north of Yankton, is the YanktonQuaton. Consequently, water poured downstream over the ice on the Missouri, James and Big Sioux rivers.

All along the valleys, the flood waters eroded, depositing grist mills, bridges and homes. At Yankton, an eyewitness account was given by Dr. Nelson Armstrong in his book "A Century of Experience," describing what he saw when the Missouri River ice gave way:

On Sunday March 17th, the ice gave way in the river at Yankton. Hundreds of people were in towns and villages, witnesses its going out, and the sight was grand, but as I stood there in silence, gazing upon those acres of ice moving down in a gigantic body, sweeping all before it, a tremendous sensation seemed to creep over me, as if I were developing an approaching calamity. The steamers, this year's fleet placed on the repair ways, was caught with the earliest moving ice and held to close to the bank as to make her unmanageable with the tide. Men labored, and steel and iron was pulverized on the spot. The ice moved out, leaving the river below clear as far as could be seen from the city. The people rejoiced that no more damage had been done; though certainly all danger had passed, but it was discovered later that the ice had first broken at the upper end of the river and guarded near Springfield...System plainly explained the cause of the river being clear at Yankton.

Since the ice had not broken up farther downstream, the water backed up and started to overflow across the lowlands. The James River bottom was inundated. Farm homes were partially submerged, livestock struggled in the water, small ice floes were floating around with small animals and chickens abroad, and from homesteads to homesteads, civic rescue parties moved about in skiffs and rowboats.

In Yankton, the townspeople had escaped relatively unscathed—sisters rather than victims—until March 29th. Suddenly, a mountainous ice gorge formed a few miles downstream from the county seat, and a huge glacier like build-up of ice built up behind it, stretching all the way to Springfield. There was no remedy for the fearful situation, except to move to high country, pray, and wait.

Just before noon on March 30th the bulking gorge gave a huge shudder and a reporter for The Dakota Herald described the following events: "The waters gave a mighty roar... and with a sudden jerk, the whole tremendous mass began to roar, and crash, and tumble, as if it knew of its awful power for destruction."

Many steamboats, moored at Yankton for winter repairs, were reduced to rubble or severely damaged. As the icy waters rose, Yankton residents reacted in fear and excitement, as told by an April 3 Dakota Herald review of the tragedy:

People ran hither and thither in wild confusion. Household goods were hastily thrown into wagons and removed to places of safety. Shouting, swearing men, weeping women and children, pawning, frightened animals, horses all combined with the roaring, rushing water to form a picture to delight the heart of the monarch of Pandemonium. As the waters rose higher and higher, skiffs, yaws, and other small craft began to about through the streets in lieu of the vehicles. Furniture, clothing, and babies were hauled out of the windows and ferried to high ground. Outhouses and moveable truck danced around the surface. Hogs and chickens squealed and squawked and swam and flew to places of safety... through the city... the little ones were an angry, surging torrent of yellow water, from one to six feet in depth, literally covered with debris incident to a great flood, all grinding, smashing and rolling about in an incredible medley... Down the river the river swayed, hawskayaks, water tanks, live animals and the fragments of fences, houses, etc., which had been swept from God knows where up the river.

Yankton was almost miraculously spared from worse catastrophe by a house-high levee of ice that stacked up along the river front and diverted the main stream from engulfing the city. Unfortunately, Vermillion, then located on the flatlands below the bluffs, was not lucky. It was totally demolished, as was the little village of Green Island, situated across the Missouri River from Yankton.

All along the river, settlers were marooned on rooftops and haystacks, in barns, attics and caves. Incidents of heroism were many, as people did what they could to rescue their neighbors from the tragedy, but at least 10 lives were lost in Yankton County.

The worst was over in 10 days, but destructive flood waters left a path of seemingly endless havoc. As the water receded, thousands of animals and fowl could be seen dead in the mud and the following warm days caused the stench to rise out of the decaying carcasses, adding a distorted aspect to the seemingly unachievable task of cleaning up.

After the terrible ordeal was over, Old Strike sent a dictated letter to Yankton from the Yankton Indian Agency on April 5, 1881:

It is now some 80 winters that I have seen the snows fall and melt away along this Missouri River, but I never saw a winter of such snows and floods as these... Long ago—40 years or more—there was a flood that overtook and killed a large number of Teton Sioux, but even then the flood was not as high as this. Here on the Yankton reservation the water seemed to burst up from beneath and covered the whole plain from bluff to bluff. Though the people fled to the hills and saved their lives, many lost all their property. Forty-three houses were taken away by the flood, with their stoves and other household goods, also stables, haystacks, cattle, horses, and livestock. Logs, steamboat wood, mowers, plows and other farming implements.

As I looked upon the women and children, struck by this great calamity, my heart was moved, and I prayed them: "God have mercy and look upon me. Look with mercy on these women and children. Give us a way—good, broad and straight—by which they may live."

"Tensiveness as they were, Dakota Territory pioneers, whose settled in and around Yankton County, enjoyed the good life along with the hardships.

The spirit of cooperation and neighborliness brought the settlers into frequent communication with one another and promoted sociability. In the village, school district and community, organized, school houses became community entertainment centers, where concerts, plays, dances, spelling bees, box socials and various organization meetings were held. Planting and harvesting been bought by the neighbors together to work as, did barn and house building projects.

Politics always provided entertainment, and holidays, especially Independence Day, were often celebrated exuberantly with parades and music.

At home, especially in the winter, the women sewed, knitted, crocheted or pieced quilts for evening receptions. Men made furniture, shoes, hats, bridles, and repaired harnesses. While everyone worked, one member of the family was chosen to read out loud to all of them, usually from the Bible.

During the bad years, Dakota spirit was hard to crush. Tragedies seemed to spur a new sense of survival and the settlers carried on optimistically.

### CHAPTER 19

Yankton County's seat of government has been blessed with many descriptive nicknames since the Indians moved away. It was called "Cherry Point" and "The Mother City of the Dakotas," for its role as a political capital. Later, Yankton was known as "The Fountain City," for its numerous artisanal wells,
Steamboats caught in 1881 flood and ice jam on Missouri River, Yankton Dakota Territory, 1891.

Steamer "Far West" at anchor.

Steamer "Helena." Taken in 1891.

and "Cement City," for one of its biggest (although temporary) industries. But one nickname survives with an air of romanticism... "River City." It's a name that still holds true geographically, but it was meant for Yankton when the county seat was a stop-over point for riverboat traffic.

Although historian Herbert S. Schell described the 1890s in Dakota as "the decade of uncertainty," firm Dakota promoters were undeterred by slow migration or adversities of nature. The future began to shine brighter with the discovery of gold in the Saline River area of Idaho and the supply and labor demands at the Yankton Indian agency and various forts provided employment for Dakota as carpenters, farmers, wood cutters and hay foragers. Those two elements helped bring more traffic through Yankton County.

The Missouri River provided an ideal highway for miners heading west to Idaho. During the summer of 1863, steamboats journeyed up the river, implementing the income of the river town.

On May 12, 1863, The Weekly Dakota reported: The steamer Shoreham has left Yankton, as we go to press, fast on a sandbar. She has on board nearly a hundred passengers, bound for Idaho gold mines, besides an immense amount of provisions and miner’s tools. Until she meets the June rise, her progress up the river will be slow and tedious.

August 4, 1863, the paper reported:
The arrival and departure of steamboats has become of such common occurrence in Yankton, that we have lost all interest in the matter. We believe upwards of thirty boats have passed here the present season, bound for the Upper Country.

The newspaper may have lost all interest in steamboat traffic by August of 1865, but the river and its transportation advantages were to enhance Dakota Territory, as Yankton Yankton County, because of Yankton’s popularity as a riverport, for years to come.

One of South Dakota’s major geological features, the Missouri River was a formidable obstacle to the Indians before white men entered the region. When white men finally did come west, the Missouri River was an aqueous highway over which French voyageurs, fur traders and explorers journeyed to and from prairie wildernesses. When Lewis and Clark used the Missouri River as their highway, they used keel boats, cumbersome and impractical. Before Lewis and Clark, the Indians used "bull boats," awkward tub-like affairs made by stretching a buffalo hide over a wooden frame. Pierre Chouteau Jr. finally introduced the use of steamboats to the Upper Missouri River country in 1831, revolutionizing the fur trading business, foreboding the development of Yankton and the county as a steamboating center.

During the pre-trellis period, steamboating was limited and almost totally related to the fur business. River navigation was kept alive as the fur trade dwindled, mainly because military posts and expeditions needed supplies. The river also provided a way to bring supplies to the Indians.

The steamboating era on the Missouri River was romantic, profitable and relatively brief. Small, shallow-draft vessels traveled through the Yankton County area during the seasons when the ice was out, but skilled veteran pilots, who reputedly could navigate across a "sea of dew," knew the Missouri River could be a friend or foe. The river's powerful current and ever-changing channel, as well as hidden snags and sandbars, almost impossible to see in the mud-brown water, were continual problems for the rivermen.

Another limiting factor was that the river was ice-bound from November to April and in the spring, floods and ice jams offered the constant threat of disaster.

After the Civil War, steamboats were doing big business on the Missouri River. Much of the advantage of such trade went to originating ports or terminals, but Yankton was merely a stop-over point. The city produced some revenue, but not the giant profits which a major transportation center could generate.

The biggest economic benefits derived by Yankton from the river travel were the sale of liquor and merchandise to passengers and crewsmen. Those heading downstream were the travelers most preferred by Yankton merchants, as Yankton was the first village of any size most of the passengers had seen since embarking and they were usually eager to spend money in the few establishments they found.

Still, Yankton was only a secondary stop-off point for riverboats, debarking passengers and unloading building supplies, machinery and freight necessary to the town. Some grain was even shipped out and woodsharks sold boiler length fuel to the boat captains. But after 1873, with the coming of railroads to the country, the scene changed.

CHAPTER 20

A montage picture, familiar to many Old Settlers of the area, is one with an insert of Felix Villiot Vinaissot superimposed upon one of General George Custer.

CHAPTER 19

County seat of government has / with many descriptive nick / Indians moved away. It was called "The Village," "The Town," and "Other City of the Dakotas," and its / for territorial capital.

It was known as "The Founder" or its numerous artisan wells, of animals and fowl could be / the mocking and the following used the stench to rise up / processes, adding a pungent / seemingly unachievable task of / arable oreal was over, Old / licensed letter to Yankton from / Indian Agency on April 5, 1887: / me 80 winters that I have seen / and melt away along this / it, but I never saw a winter of / cold floods as these... / Long ago / once - there was a flood that / killed a large number of Teton / then the flood was not as high / on the Yankton reservation the / to burst up between and / hole plain from bluff to bluff. / Some fled to the hills and saved / many lost all their property. / ous perils, were taken away by / air shoots and other household / and cattle, horses, / about wood, mowers, plows and / implements.

Upon the women and children, / great calamity, my heart was / prayed thus: "God have mercy / me. Look with mercy on these / children. Give us a way - good, / right - by which they may live." / as they were, Dakota Territory / settled, the settlers around / enjoyed the good life along / ships. Of cooperation and neighborly / the settlers into frequent com- / with another one and promoted / as school districts were orga- / hones became community / centers, where concerts, plays, / nning bees, box socials and various / meetings were held. Plasting / d by all the neighbors 1 to 2 / ways provided entertainment, / , especially Independence Day, / debauched embarrassedly with / / especially in the winter, the / d, knitted, crocheted or pieced / vening recreation. Men made / ed tools and utensils and made / d harnesses. While everyone / of the family was chosen / all of them, usually from / bad years, Dakota spirit / bad years, Dakota spirit was / h: Tragedies seemed to spur a / survival and the settlers carried /
Boats were sometimes used to complete the trip when the water got too high, but stage lines often curtailed their services completely, often for weeks at a time.

Between Sioux City and Yankton, the C.E. and D.T. Hedges Company operated daily four-horse coaches. The Thompson Line was another freight and passenger carrier. Moses Armstrong described travel in Thompson’s “dred’s axle wagon” in a letter dated February 18, 1868:

I seated myself squarely over the hind axle, on the bottom of the wagon, the front seats of course being reserved for ladies . . . the driver let loose his steeds, and drove to the first station (Taylor’s), 31 miles over a rough frozen road at rib breaking speed . . . My head was continually bobbing up and down and in the frosty air like a churn dasher, while the rest of my body was bouncing all over the bottom of the wagon.

An unidentified writer, in the March 6, 1869 Union and Dakotaian, that Thompson’s competitors weren’t much better . . . perhaps the greatest contrast that is experienced by one traveling from Yankton to the east is the transition from the abominable and might properly say the infernal stageline of Hedges and Co. to the smooth and rapidly moving cars . . . We were compelled to ride all the way from Yankton to Sioux City in an open lumber wagon, sitting on a trunk, and over the worse and roughest roads of the season. The tortures of the Spanish Inquisition were tender merce in comparison with this terrible ride of twelve hours.

Needless to say, the desire for a railroad connection at Yankton was intense, but getting one concluded a long series of very complicated, intrigue-ridden, politically dominated machinations and abortive activities which accomplished little and involved many.

The Dakota Southern Railway Company was formed in Yankton on March 18, 1871 in order to push for the construction of a railroad line from Sioux City to the capital. Unfortunately by that time, the federal government was withdrawing from an earlier policy of generous land grant aid to railroads, and a 65-mile line through a meagerly populated area offered little likelihood of quick profits, so eastern investors were not real eager to get involved. Finally, because there was little private money in the territory either, an idea was presented for Yankton County to subscribe construction bonds which could be sold in the east. Then politics came into play.

John A. Burbank, the territory’s governor at the time, was in Washington, D.C., promoting the railroad, so a committee of Yankton County comprised of Henry N. Batchelder to call a special session of the legislature to give the county legal authority to issue bonds.

A strange turn of events occurred when Governor Burbank returned to the capital. He questioned whether the acting governor could call special sessions and sent a telegraph message to United States Attorney General A.T. Ackerman, asking for legal advice. It was then that the telegraph, which had come to the county in 1870, took the occasion to play an unusual trick on the territorial officer.

The Attorney General’s reply said that the special session was unauthorized.

Lost somewhere between Omaha and the Missouri Valley Junction, the missing prefix created a legal hedgepodge, through which the legislators declared the special session void, but approved a bond issue law on which the illegal meeting had voted.

Through a maze of both legitimate and questionable transactions, Yankton County finally authorized the issue of $200,000 in bonds. In addition, Elk Point Township approved a $15,000 obligation and Vermillion, although it voted down bond participation, agreed to spend $4,000 for a depot.

Work began on Yankton on June 24, 1872. New York brought this report from thel The whistle of the Lo Dakota Southern sends a jingle to the people of Yankton of the train and a half mile when the sun went down las shell voice of the steam dominantly heard upon our will be in Yankton by the car. Our legislators believe that it can be rode home on a railcar.

On January 26, 1873, the “C.G. Wicker,” crossed Ehl county seat’s town proper. Yankton Press on January 27, a locomotive crossed the broad Rhine at 11:15 a.m., January engraved in the memorie

By February 3, regular trains were operating on the line. The Dakota Southern started in total equipment consisting of two passenger coaches, two 45 freight cars. An engine and were added in the fall of 1873 would travelers have to unpredictable and uncom coaches and slow, expensive.

Although the railroad played a role in the decline of riverboat means of transportation, hand to enhance the economy County. Yankton became the railroad terminal, a warehouse a loading point for up-river Santee Neva vania man, established the Transportation Company (ah Coastal Packet line) with its in Yankton. With a military shi for Dakota Territory, freight on the end of the line by the year 1875, was transferred to the Colus.

The combination of river brought a new wave of prospects County. A small mill and established at the county a cigar factory, a harness company building firm. The brainwash from the steamboat newspapers reported that Yank way to becoming the “new St.

The railroad was also re General Carter’s visit in April and his troops came through so the railroad was there a in the area’s history.

Despite the unreasonable h might have turned into trave been for the cooperation of the 1 Yankton’s capitalists entertain Cavalry during its short and reception and ball for the of ladies featured the music of Vinieri, an ex-maritarty bar General Carter talked into m lead the Seventh Cavalry band.

The Yankton Press described edition of April 30, 1873.

The social event of 1873 Yankton on Thursday evening was the procession of the fi given by the citizens of Yan officers of the 7th Cavalry.

The Reception Ball was held Hall, which was perfectly de
Work began on Yankton’s end of the line on June 24, 1872. New Year’s Day of 1873 brought this report from the Yankton Press:

The wheel of the Locomotive on the Dakota Southern sends a New Year’s greet-
ing to the people of Yankton. The track was within one and a half miles of James River when the sun went down last evening, and the shrill voice of the steam wheel could be distinctly heard upon our streets. The cars will be in Yankton by the 11th of January, and the Legislature will sit along the line can be rode home on a rail.

On January 26, 1873, the first locomotive, “C.G. Wicker,” crossed Rhine Creek into the county seat’s town proper, described by the Yankton Press on January 29, 1873, as “The locomotive crossed the bridge over the classic Rhine at 11:15 a.m. January 26, 1873. Let it be engraven in the memories of our children...

By February 3, regular passenger trains were operating on the line, although the Dakota Southernck’s total investment in its total equipment consisting of three engines, two passenger coaches, two baggage cars and 45 freight cars. An engine and 25 freight cars were added in the fall of 1873. No longer would travelers have to depend on the unpredictable and uncomfortable stage-coaches and slow, expensive freight wagons.

Although the railroad played a major part in the decline of riverboat traffic, the two means of transportation worked hand in hand to enhance the economy of Yankton County. Yankton became the Missouri River railroad hub for the agricultural and industrial product of the town’s businessmen and the general public. Railroad directors, in an attempt to make the “watering” technique, devised a scheme to sell $1,200,000 worth of first and second mortgages to investors throughout the state. The county commission, however, got a temporary injunction from Justice O’Leary to stop the maneuver, since the county was the only source of any actual money invested in the project. Meanwhile, Governor Burnside (one of the railroad’s directors) tried to transfer Judge Barnes to another territorial district.

The plot grew thicker with the development of the Broadway Gang and the Capitale Street Gang, two loosely defined factions of merchants and politicians. The first group argued in favor of the county’s security, while the Capitale Street clique joined the railroad directors in a fight against the injunction. Finally, in a move towards harmony, a meeting was called for on the night of September 11, 1873. That night, tragedy, caused in part by the railroad feud, caused the townpeople to look back on their differences in sad reflection.

Pioneers of the 21st Century, meeting, Yank-ton had entertained a delegation from the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce. Banker Peter Wintermute and General Edwin Stanton McCook were two of the committee members working on the reception. Standing on oppo-site sides of the railroad issue, the two men had also been in disagreement with one another on previous occasions. Unfortunately, their personal animosities reached a breaking point on the night of September 11. General McCook, territorial secretary and Civil War hero, was a large man, standing six feet tall and weighing 200 pounds. He was an outspoken supporter of Governor Burnside. Bob Karolevitz, in his book, YANKTON: A

CHAPTER 21

T22

After the mounted regiment marched westward, more excitement highlighted 1873, as the Dakota Southern and Yankton County bonds were involved in a growing political controversy which threatened to cause a major split between the state’s business and the town’s businessmen and the general public. Railroad directors, in an attempt to make the “watering” technique, devised a scheme to sell $1,200,000 worth of first and second mortgages to investors throughout the state. The county commission, however, got a temporary injunction from Justice O’Leary to stop the maneuver, since the county was the only source of any actual money invested in the project. Meanwhile, Governor Burnside (one of the railroad’s directors) tried to transfer Judge Barnes to another territorial district.

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Foster Post, recounted the tragic details of the story of the man’s demise.

During the evening of September 11, Wintermute (a slight 135-pound man) and McCook were in the combination saloon and billiard parlor in the basement of the St. Charles Hotel... Banker Wintermute had apparently gone to the public meeting without each of a supply of cigs, nor had he brought any money with him. Supposedly he had asked McCook for a smoke or a coin to purchase ones, and the latter refused in a manner which incensed Wintermute to a fit of pique. Whether this was the case or not, a physical tussle occurred between the two, during which the Broadway banker had been thrown to the floor and soundly pummelled by his much bigger opponent. (It has even been said that McCook rubbed Wintermute’s face in the contents of a barroom spittoon). Following the beating, the territorial secretary went back upstairs to the railroad meeting, and the banker went to wash up.

A hundred men or so had gathered in the court room to hear arguments from both sides. Ex-Governor Edmonds had been cho-

sen to chair the meeting, and Doctor Burleigh had been one of the first speakers, delivering an emotionally-charged oration in the midst of a rebellious speech when shots rang out on one side of the room, and General McCook—a blood-red patch on his coat front—came charging through the door from the back. In an instant, the room was filled with smoke and smoke from a smoking pistol in his hand. Though mortally wounded, the giant secre-
tary with his assailant; there were more shots and Wintermute was thrown to the floor. At the command of Joseph Hanson stopped his arm, and wrestled the pistol from his hand. McCook was still raging and congratulated to throw the barrel into a window which had been broken in the confused and bloody scuffle. And then suddenly it was over.

Justice of the Peace Charles F. Rostreusch arrested Wintermute, and Doctor Burleigh and others helped McCook to his room in the adjoining St. Charles and undressed him for treatment. McCook remained con-

scious for a time and asked the physician about his chances. Burleigh indicated that there was little hope, and the general sent for his wife and young son. During the night he bled profusely, and early in the morning of the 12th, he died.

Following the shock of McCook’s death, the county’s bond suit was settled out of court. (There was a long, extended sequel to the Dakota Southern story when Yankton County later attempted to renege on its bond commitment. The county was ruled liable in a United States Supreme Court decision and when the railroad crossing on the railroad obligation would be a factor in delaying statehood, Yankton County voters approved an estimated $500,000 bond issue in 1883 to settle its initial debt. It wasn’t until 1913, after the last of the repayment bonds was redeemed.)
Despite its advantages, the river could also cause grief. With its treacherous eddies, great depth in some places and width in others, changing currents, hidden snags and sandbars, as well as its dissonant ice gorges and springtime flooding, Nebraska’s "eternal Fighting Man" proved to be a river that was to be feared and respected. Ironically, it was the riverboats’ own highway that ultimately brought the romantic era of transportation to a close in Yankton County, although there were many other contributing factors.

After 1873, riverboats and railroad trains were working compatibly in Dakota Territory. When freight was hauled to the end of the railroad line in Yankton, it was then loaded onto riverboats for further transport. The Press and Dakotaan reported on April 15, 1895:

The managers of the Coulee line and the managers of the Milwaukee railroad have completed an arrangement by which the Coulee folks are to run a regular packet line between Yankton and Pierre. It will begin operations with two boats per week — the Black Hills and the Western — which will leave Yankton on Saturdays and Tuesdays.

By this arrangement the Milwaukee road and the Coulee line will transport most of the Black Hills freight this season.

Despite the sympathetic relationship between railroads and steamboats, the scene was changing. Railroad promoters began looking at expansion and then taking action. A line, built by the Milwaukee and St. Paul Railway Company, was extended to the village of Running Water, just beyond Springfield on the Missouri River. It was completed in 1880 and when the government began to ship supplies to the new railroad, business moved to the top.

Additional bounty provided by the Missouri River shoreline included wildlife and rich, tillable soil. Tours along the river’s banks provided a habitat thick with ducks, geese, deer and prairie chickens, all of which supplemented the pioneer diet. And centuries of springtime floods left fertile soil which yielded acres of successful crops.

As Mother City of the Dakotas, Yankton County’s seat of government was a hub of civic activity. This in the rural capital hosted the governor and delegation of lawmakers for more than two decades. Chosen for its accessibility on the river, Yankton enjoyed the political and economic benefits that had been reaped by other communities on the river. But when the steamboat era faded as the main mode of transportation, the riverport lost its extended commercial advantage, and as other towns in Dakota Territory vied to be the hub of the region, Yankton, Mother City found its location a drawback.

Similarly, as time went on, Yankton began to see its status as capital become a disadvantage. The first pioneers to settle in Yankton County were proud that their closest town was chosen as the territory’s governmental base. But when the legislators met to do out the large of government, Yankton was overlooked because it would appear “too political” to award special favors to the capital.

Yankton lost out on the penitentiary, which was established in Sioux Falls in 1881. The territorial university was awarded to Vermillion in 1862 and the state’s agricultural college was given to Brookings in 1881. The Dakota Hospital for the Insane was, however, located in Yankton County on a school section two miles north of town. That designation was granted only because Governor William A. Howard took the matter of the medical facilities of the state to the legislatures of other states. Yankton had its own hands when in 1873 Minnesota and Nebraska refused to continue the contract which provided for their hospitalization.

The Administration Building an
over, the Missouri River to the county seat was a scene of religious and political ferment. The legislature met in 1881, and the town of Yankton was incorporated. The town grew rapidly, and by 1885, it had become the center of a large agricultural area. The first courthouse was built in 1883, and the city hall was completed in 1886. The town continued to grow and prosper, and by 1890, it had a population of over 1,000.

In 1893, the railroad reached Yankton, and the town became a center of commercial and industrial activity. The construction of the Missouri-Red river dam in 1950 provided a major impetus for the town's growth, and Yankton continued to expand in the years that followed.

The Administration Building and Hospital for Inmates, Yankton, South Dakota. C. early 1900's.

CHAPTER 24

Yankton may have lost its status as territorial capital, but it was still the "Mother City of the Dakotas." Its designation as the capital was no longer an issue. Yankton had turned its attention to the task of building a new territory. In 1883, the town of Yankton was incorporated, and by 1885, it had become the center of a large agricultural area. The first courthouse was built in 1883, and the city hall was completed in 1886. The town continued to grow and prosper, and by 1890, it had a population of over 1,000.

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The town of Yankton, South Dakota, had been the capital of the Dakota Territory. It was the center of government for the entire territory. The territory was governed by a governor and a territorial legislature. The governor was appointed by the President of the United States, and the legislature was elected by the people of the territory. The governor and the legislature had to work together to pass laws and make decisions for the territory.

The town of Yankton was the center of government for the Dakota Territory. It was the seat of the territorial government, and the governor and the legislature had their offices there. The town was also the center of commerce and industry for the territory. The railroad played a major role in the development of the town, and the town continued to grow and prosper as a result.

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act, along with the removal of the capital from Yankton, sparked the flame of the statehood effort, which until then, was lacking in solid support.

The statehood drive got underway on September 4, 1883, when 125 delegates gathered (unofficially because of the veto in Sioux Falls) to draft a constitution for the yet unnamed state of South Dakota. Bartlett Tripp of Yankton was president of the convention and out of it came the lengthy document, which, with minor changes, was to become the basic law of South Dakota when statehood was finally granted.

More conventions followed and twice a statehood bill, favoring separation, was introduced in the U.S. Congress, but twice it was defeated. Finally, the Omnibus Bill was passed on February 29, 1889. Although it did not make South Dakota a state, it required another constitutional convention, and after the meeting, Dakota Territory was separated and a constitution was accepted by the people of the southern half on October 1, 1889. President Benjamin Harrison signed the proclamation that created North and South Dakota on November 2, 1889, shuffling the papers as he did, so no one knew which state was 39th or 40th. He said, "They were born together. They are one and I will make them twins!"

The Yankton Daily Press and Dakotaan carried a series of headlines announcing President Harrison's action on November 2, proclaiming "We Are A State."

The Proclamation issued for South and North Dakota:
Two New Stars Shining from the Firmament of the Union
Ring the Bells and Shoot the Cannon — E Pluribus Unum
A Brief Announcement of the Glorious News, But it is Enough
As a footnote, one of Yankton County's most prominent residents, Rev. Joseph Ward, who helped establish Yankton College, left a five-word living memorial which expressed his personal beliefs and became South Dakota's official motto: "Under God, the People Rule." Although his untimely death denied him the privilege of participating in the development of the state he helped to create as one of the leaders in the statehood movement (he died on November 11, 1889) Rev. Ward is remembered with the words he left behind.

CHAPTER 25

It had been 30 years since the Yankton Sioux residents of Sticks-the-Raw's camp on the Missouri River headed westward to the reservation as white settlers moved into Dakota Territory. South Dakota, in 1859, was not a state, and Yankton County was the home of many schools and religious institutions, all established in an effort to teach the frontier settlers about God and man.

It wasn't until 1865 that school districts became organized in Dakota Territory, although some private neighborhood schools provided educational facilities for the pioneer youngsters. With the appointment of

James S. Foster as territorial superintendent of public schools in 1864, Dakota Territory's public school system received a substantial boost.

When he was appointed, Foster pursued his assignment vigorously. As a member of the New York colony, he brought to the office a wealth of experience gained in school work before his arrival on the Dakota frontier, as well as a zealous devotion to the ideals of education.

After making a careful study of the territory's school situation, Foster was instrumental in the development and progress of the school districts in the territory, which, by 1868, had begun to increase with the influx of new settlers. Foster was also involved with the construction of the first school building in the county seat, Brown School, named for the color of its first coat of paint, was built on the corner of Walnut and Yankton in 1869.

As Yankton County's country schools were busy, children of the new settlers were too few children for subscription school was private home. Sometimes, organized in groups and a cooperative effort to provide an education — all of which for the pioneers to organize districts later on. And when organized the one-room (which were eventually a with chalkboards, a stage desk, and rows of coat hooks) became community social life. The also served, at times, as church.

Qualifications of the paid teacher varied. Teacher provided that county superintendent all who applied for teaching. Added to the community school's income edge among younger children, was the district's own schoolhouses. Many were dirt or log and had only dirt as a roof. Foster said, "The log schoolhouse, with a blackboard in the yard, and a teacher — and it was considered a fine school!"

After Brown School was built and country schools began to replace the schoolhouse and children of Dakota Territory, the districts were established in and around Yankton. In 1869, Rev. Melanchthon Dakota Hall, which admitted girls, extended German language, astronomy, and church history classes on October 13, 1869. Eutropius Institute and St. Raphael taught the Morse 'manipulation of the type' Dakotah Commercial College taught. The Yankton Academy, 1872 by Rev. Joseph Ward, a minister and president of the Board of Education, was the first general school in Dakota Territory by playing a greater part in education of Yankton May 25, 1871, the General A Congregational Churches in Dal
on the corner of Walnut and Fourth Streets in Yankton in 1866.

As Yankton's population grew, country schools were built to educate the children of the new settlers. But when there were too few children for a school district, a subscription school was maintained in a private home. Sometimes, schools were even organized in sod huts and claim shanties in a cooperative effort to provide children with an education — all of which made it easier for the pioneers to form school districts later on. And when the districts were organized, the one-room school houses (which were eventually all built similarly, with chalkboards, a stage, several rows of desks, varying in size, and a cloak room with rows of coat hooks) became the centers of community social life. The old school buildings also served, at times, as churches.

Qualifications of the early teachers were wide and varied. Teacher certification in 1863 provided that county superintendent examine all who applied for teaching certificates in moral character, learning and ability to teach. The certificate awarded to qualifying educators read: "This is to certify that — has been examined and found competent to give instruction in orthography, writing, arithmetic, English grammar and geography and having exhibited satisfactory evidence of good moral character, is authorized to teach these branches in any common school within this county." The "nationality" stew created by immigration, brought its share of complications to teaching. In 1867, the school teacher was the only one in the classroom who spoke English. Aided only by a primitive means of communication and disseminating knowledge among pupils, the teacher was largely part of the local history of the schoolhouses. Many were either built of sod or wood or sometimes just a covered wagon when the school's first annual report, Foster said: "Indeed, a good log schoolhouse, with a blackboard and a well in the yard and a teacher at $30 per month is evidently a fair prospect in Dakota." After Brown School was built in Yankton and country schools began administering the basics of reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic to the children of Dakota, other educational facilities were established in and around Yankton. In 1868, Rev. Melanchthon Hoyt opened Dakota Hall, which advertised courses in Greek, classics, French, geography, philosophy and other lesser subjects. Sacred Heart Academy was established and run by the Sisters of Mercy. Bishop Martin Marty established an Indian boarding school and Sacred Heart School was opened for classes on October 13, 1884. The Yankton Electric High School and Institute of Theology taught the Morse Code and "manipulation of the typewriter," while Dakota Commercial College taught stenography. The Yankton Academy established in 1875 by Rev. Joseph Ward, a Congregational minister and president of the town's first Board of Education, was the predecessor of Yankton High School.

Rev. Ward, after establishing Yankton Academy, realized his dream of building a private institution of higher learning in Dakota Territory by playing a major role in the establishment of Yankton College. On May 25, 1881, the General Association of Congregational Churches in Dakota agreed to sponsor such a school, to be called Pilgrim College. The association chose Yankton as the site for the educational institution, in exchange for a 25-acre campus and $11,000, mostly pledged by Congregationalists.

Yankton College (the Pilgrim title had been dropped when it was officially incorporated on August 30, 1881, although classes did not begin until October 4, 1882). At that time the campus was still a bare pasture, so the first five students gathered at the church to hear the first sermon. They assembled in a small building south of the church until the first permanent structure, Middle Hall, was erected on College Hill in October of 1885. The college's first commencement, for a class of one, Edward Hiram Pound, was on June 8, 1887. Past 103 years, Yankton College provided a liberal arts education for students from all over the United States. But due to financial difficulties, the institution was closed on December 21, 1984. The unexpected decision by the Yankton College Board of Trustees came as a shock to students, faculty and alumni, as well as the community of Yankton itself. The December 21, 1984 issue of the Missouri Valley Observer editorialized: "All week long, since news came that Yankton College must close, people have compared the situation to a death in the family. It is an appropriate comparison. Yankton College has meant far more to all of us than the obvious economic benefits of a million dollar payroll. Above all, it was evidence, from 1881 to 1984, that good things can happen. It's been a little piece of gold down in South Dakota. Over the past 103 years, area people have been enriched by the education, the cultural events, the science and the entertainment offered by the college. And the Yankton College continues to operate as a coeducational institution.

Religion in Yankton County was varied from the beginning. The county seat's first religious institution was the Yankton Congregational Church, established in 1865, The Union and Dakota of May 13, 1865. The United Church of Christ was established in 1869, the Yankton Free Will Baptist Church in 1870. The First Methodist Church was organized at Yankton in 1880, and the church building was erected in 1872 during the pastorate of Rev. J.T. Walker. By 1887 the black community of Yankton County had its own brick African Methodist Episcopal

New Episcopal Church is entirely enclosed and painted a beautiful brown color. It will soon be completed and ready for occupancy. This, the only church building in Yankton, presents a neat appearance, and does great credit to the liberal and enterprising citizens who have contributed to its erection.

Rev. W.W. Cook of Ripon, Wisconsin, established the first congregation church group in Yankton in April of 1868. He was succeeded by Rev. Joseph Ward, who with his wife Sarah (Wood) came to Yankton on November 6, 1868. With the donation of two lots city lots J.B.S. Todd to the church, a new building was constructed and the first services were held there on January 9, 1879. Other churches were established in Yankton and throughout the county as settlement increased. Baptists conducted baptismal services along the James River during the 1870's, but the first Baptist church was established in Yankton by Rev. L.P. Judson in 1864. The congregation was later reorganized by Rev. J.B. Rockwood in 1867, with the first Baptist building of cobble erection in 1869.

Rev. S.W. Ingham preached the first Methodist sermon in Yankton on October 21, 1869 to a congregation of two women and five men. The first Methodist Episcopal Society was organized at Yankton in 1880, and the church building was erected in 1872 during the pastorate of Rev. J.T. Walker. By 1887 the black community of Yankton County had its own brick African Methodist Episcopal
steps toward establishing a public hospital in the city, that the need of a hospital was brought to the fore. Unfortunately, it was years before action actually took place.

Yankton's first board of health was installed in 1872, but it functioned only to report the presence of contagious diseases in order for citizens to take measures for their own protection. A Pest House was established on north Douglas for disease victims, as early as 1873. Dr. V.A. Schiakooe, operated a small private hospital for women.

The city council considered building a hospital in 1884 on a plot which the Episcopal Church had purchased some 10 years earlier, also with the thought of using it for a hospital site. Neither plan was carried out, however.

By 1889, Yankton and the surrounding county was still without a health care facility, until a group of local women formed the Yankton Hospital Association. They then began operating a small, somewhat makeshift institution in a converted home near the northwestern corner of Fourth and Walnut, until three years later, when the Benedictine nuns opened Sacred Heart Hospital.

Dedicated on November 4, 1887, Sacred Heart Hospital was the brainchild of Bishop Thomas O'Gorman. When the Benedictine convent was moved from the old academy building of the Sisters of Mercy in Yankton to the new hospital, Bishop O'Gorman believed the vacant building could easily be converted to a hospital. The Benedictines trained as teachers, not nurses — were somewhat taken aback with the idea, but pursued the plan.

While working with Yankton doctors on May 6, 1897, Bishop O'Gorman told them that the medical and surgical government of the institution would be left to the town's doctors. The nuns would be in charge of the nursing duties.

After the building was altered to accommodate 30 beds, Bishop O'Gorman announced that both Catholics and non-Catholics would be treated, and Sacred Heart Hospital admitted its first patient on November 8, 1897.

Welcomed by Yankton County citizens, the hospital, even with its humble beginnings, was to play a continuing long-term role in the area — socially, medically and economically — in the years to come.

For several years following Governor Howard H. Hotchkiss' visit to Yankton in 1876, the care of mentally ill patients was left to the county's temporary building reconstructed from two old lodging houses formerly located in Yankton. Before that, Dakota Territory governors had contracted with neighboring states to care for the territory's mentally ill, a practice authorized by a law enacted for that purpose which stemmed from Governor John A. Banzhaf's December 6, 1870 message to the Dakota Territorial Legislature.

It is important that some provision be made for the custody and treatment of insane persons — the humanity dictates that this unfortunate class of persons, however few may be their number, should not be neglected, when prompt and careful treatment might result in recovery. In view of this, it is important that provision be made for their removal to the asylum of neighboring states until their wants can be properly met within our own borders.

After Dakota Territory could finally care for its own mental patients, the first frame structure on the hospital grounds was destroyed by fire in April of 1882, resulting in the death of five patients. In 1883, at the cost of $75,000, a new building, Old Administration, was erected to replace the temporary wooden frame structure. It served as quarters for staff, patients, offices, laundry, kitchen and dining areas.

Tragedy struck again in 1888 as more construction was taking place on the hospital grounds, when a wall of building collapsed, killing two men and injuring several more. Poor quality building material was blamed and a jury blamed the contractor and asylum superintendent for the mishap. Eleven years later, 17 women patients were killed when a fire broke out in the laundry of the Old Administration building. By coincidence, a legislative committee was inspecting the asylum at the time; so they witnessed the disaster first hand. Consequently, the lawmakers returned to the capital in Pierre with some pointed recommendations for upgrading the conditions at the institution.

Now called the South Dakota Human Services Center, the institution celebrated its centennial in 1979. Then administrator David W. Bea, M.D., in his comments printed in Humanist, a monthly newsletter, said:

It is obvious that a hospital is not just buildings, but it is really the people who work in those buildings providing the care to those persons who are patients. As I review the old hospital records, speak with former long-time employees and learn in other ways the history of this hospital, I am tremendously impressed with the quality of the persons who originally founded this hospital, staffed this hospital and generally provided the past "caring" that we must compare to our present "caring."

It is always surprising to me to find that in the "bad old days" (and there were some very bad times when food was in short supply than they are today) that those staff persons who were present exhibited great quantities of caring for their patients. I believe that this is the true celebration of our 100th anniversary, that we will be preceded by great numbers of staff persons who left us their heritage of "tender loving care" to carry on in the next years.

CHAPTER 26
A Territory could finally care for its patients, the first frame hospital grounds was de-
in April of 1887, resulting in no patients. In 1882, at the cost of 25, Old Administra-
ted to replace the temporary structure. It served as quarters for offices, laundry, kitchen staff again in 1888 as the taking place on the hospital a wall of building collapsed, injuring several more. Building material was blamed for the mishap. Eleven patients were killed when a wall of the Old building. By coincidence, a committee was inspecting the building at the same time, so they witnessed the accident. Consequently, the response was swift, and a new hospital was constructed. The new building was named the Sahakota Indian Hospital.

On the 27th of July, 1905, the hospital celebrated its 25th anniversary. The event was a grand affair, with speeches, music, and dance. The hospital was renamed the Sahakota Indian Hospital in honor of its contributions to the community.

The hospital celebrated its 25th anniversary with a grand event. The Sahakota Indian Hospital was renamed the Sahakota Indian Hospital in honor of its contributions to the community.

April 30, 1873 (issue of the Yankton Press) occurred when General George Armstrong Custer and his Seventh Cavalry came to Yankton for a brief stopover enroute to western Dakota Territory. The reception ball given by the citizens of Yankton to the officers of the Seventh Cavalry, featured music and dancing until dawn.

President William McKinley made a brief stop in Yankton on October 14, 1899 while he was in South Dakota to welcome the state's veterans on their way home from the Philippines after the Spanish-American War. Hundreds of townspeople crowded together to witness his brief, but dramatic appearance and listen to his short, simple, and relatively insignificant comments.

In the spring of 1903 from Tyndall, Brandon, St. Helens, and Yankton led a parade to greet President Theodore Roose-
velt — who succeeded William McKinley when the latter died from an assassin's bullet on September 14, 1901 — as he made a railroad tour through the midwest. Yankton school children presented the bombastic president a bouquet of roses as he bounded from his carriage and up to the birch-bedecked platform built at the intersection of Third and Walnut Streets. There, the cheering crowd listened to the president's 15-minute speech during which he mentioned his appearance in Yankton as a candidate, his cowboy experiences in Dakota Territory and his appreciation for the ruggedness of the country and its people. The Yankton Daily Gazette recorded the event:

Yankton's best foot forward and stretched out her hand to welcome President Roosevelt. It is not often that the president of the greatest nation upon earth finds time to visit so unimportant (in the greater economy of the town as our own) and the infrequent event would therefore, under the circumstances, be of red-letter day impor-
tance. To see a president, to hear him speak, perhaps to shake his hand is important enough consideration to bring out the most democratic citizens to add his presence and his cheers to those of all his neighbors who could possibly gather for the same patriotic pur-
pose.

Famed lawyer and orator William Jennings Bryan also came to Yankton County. The Press and Dakotaian urged people to make him welcome in it September 27, 1900 edition: Yankton will be host tomorrow to the foremost man in the nation, William Jen-
nings Bryan, the democratic candidate for president of the United States, the man of exactness, honesty convictions, a well defined policy and absolutely free from political taint . . . Mr. Bryan is to be the guest of all the people, and his friends here invite his enemies to join with them in making it clear that he is welcome. All the people of Yankton joined in welcoming Mr. McKinley and Mr. Roosevelt. All the people can combine in greeting the greatest of living statesmen. Mr. Bryan shall be welcome.

Independence Day was celebrated with fervor in the early days of Yankton County. Holiday excitement even made the newspaper later, as admitted by the July 7, 1863 Weekly Dakotaian:

The Fourth of July is responsible for the delay of this day's Dakotaian. The printers would celebrate. We are two days behind time.

Some special, yet unexpected guests turned up for the festivities on July 4, 1885. The Press and Dakotaian of July 3 explained:

If ever Yankton was taken by surprise, it was last night about six o'clock when suddenly appeared over the western bluff a
The spirit of Halloween was

Nearly 2,000 Yankton residents representing every character of the fairies that went with Halloween, marched in a parade in length through Yankton last evening. Animal lovers, fairies, floats, Jack-o-lanterns and black cats were in the galaxy of characters in the fantastic procession.

Press and Dakotan
November 1, 1934

Sporting events always draw large crowds especially when the 1925-26 School Bucks came within delivering the national championship to the University of South Dakota, for the Fair. Featured guests were the 1925-26 University of South Dakota basketball team, which had earlier won the state championship.

The team was loaded into a truck for a parade through the city at least 80 officers participated. The Old Hickory Fife and Drum Band, the University Band, hundreds of other well-wishers.

Just before the Depression in 1930, Yankton business Watermelon Day (an event held in 1920 and 1929) was held in 1931, attracting the biggest crowds of Yankton County to date.

On August 11 of that year, the University of South Dakota basketball team, which had earlier won the state championship, was featured on the parade.

The Depression started in 1929, and the University of South Dakota basketball team, which had earlier won the state championship, was featured on the parade.

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The spirit of Halloween even got into the act.

Nearly 2,000 Yankton school children, representing every character that makes up the fairy tales that go with the spirit of Halloween, marched in a parade more than a mile in length through the streets of Yankton last evening. Animals, ghosts, gob-
lins, fairies, floats, Jack-o’lanterns, witches on brooms and even black cats were represented in the galaxy of characters that made up the fantastic procession.

Press and Dakotan Nov. 1, 1934

Sporiting events always drew a crowd, especially when the 1925-24 Yankton High School Bucks came within a whisper of delivering the national championship to their hometown. Although the Bucks lost the final game of the tournament in Chicago, Yankto-

nians from in and outside of town were proud of their team. Throughout the tournament, beloved Head Coach Bob Walensky’s (sic) rallies were held. And when the boys came home, a crowd of more than 5,000 citizens gave the basketball players a roaring recep-
tion.

The team was loaded into a guiily decorated truck for a parade through the city, followed by at least 80 faster-fusing motor vehicles. The Old Hickory Flye and Drum Corps, the Yankton High School Band, a section of Battery E of the 147th Field Artillery and hundreds of club members, the population tributary to this community, joined in the grand parade.

Jillye Daye's Hay Days have been a long-standing tradition in that agricultural com-
munity which is known as the "Hay Capital of the World." The title comes from the fact that Gayville area farmers sell much of their produce, such as hay to dairy farmers on the way as Iowa, Wisconsin and Missouri.

Hay Days get its start in the 1960s and grew to enormous proportions until the early 1970s, when it was discontinued. The celebra-
tion is now in its "second generation," resurrected in 1980. The Missouri Valley Observer of July 22, 1983 editorialized:

It is a chance for rural and city people to join in celebrating the farming heritage that has always been the key to our economic and cultural life in this entire way of life in this region.

The Gayville way of celebrating this heri-
tage is to parade down main street with fancy machinery and floats, see who can push round the fastest wagon, watch the bonfire, yard gar-
tachers perform mighty deeds and wash down all this with 100-pound steaks.

It is a day designed for family fun.

Gayville’s neighbor to the north, Volin, has been the home of an annual Turtle Races, organized by the Volin Jaycees, since 1977. Over 3000 and painted and read turtles of various sizes compete on Volin’s Main Street, while a Turtle Queen is crowned and participants, which number more than 1,500,000, enjoy barbecued beef.

Yankton’s newest festivity was organized to revive annual celebrations in Yankton reminiscent of Fourth of July and Fall Festival days, and to celebrate the heritage of riverboating on the Missouri River. Riverboat Days, initiated in 1984, features inner tube races and waterskiing competition on the Missouri River, a parade, tug-of-war, a homecoming, live open air con-

certs and melodrama performances.

The county seat is also home of the South Dakota and Open Fiddling Contest and Jamboree. Since 1972, the musical event has become a Yankton tradition and is nationally recognized as one of the finest contests held, featuring musicians both young and old.

CHAPTER 28

Teasing business and industry has long been a dream of Yankton County residents, as it was first settled, though the county seat becoming another St. Louis or Cincinnati abandoned.

From 1859 through 1895, building mater-
ials were the chief requirement of the Yank-
ton County settlers, and it is not surprising that the first industry in the area was a lumber mill. Built in 1860 about four miles east of the county seat in the heavily timbered James River delta area, it consisted of two logs projecting perpendicularly from a cut bank. The mill produced rough beam
boards that, although not always straight, at least served construction needs at the time.

After 1870, wheat became a major crop in Yankton County, but the nearest grist mill was located in Vermillion. In 1871 William Bordene learned from a farmer in the eastern part of the county that it took six days to travel to a grain mill when it was taken to Vermillion. With that information, Bordene, along with John O. Bates and the members of the mercantile firm of Brumba and Miner, organized Excelsior Mills of Yankton.

Constructed in 1872, the original capacity of the mill was 125 barrels of flour per day, but the capacity increased as demand increased after 1874.

Excelsior Mills became one of the chief sources of flour for supplying government contracts to Indian agencies and military outposts. Nover from Yankton, it was in operation until 1923, with the Gurney Seed and Nursery Company took it over to be used as a seed cleaning mill.

Another mill, established for agricultural commodities, was built in 1876 by a group of German-Russians. Wind-powered and built in the classical Dutch fashion, the mill operated during the 1880s. Its special feature was that it was detached from its foundation and could be turned when the wind changed.

The first Yankton County settlers found a ready market for grain in the contractors who supplied military posts and Indian agencies. By 1869, however, more grain was raised in the area than could be consumed by the agencies and a grain market was established in Yankton.
The Schwenk Barth Brewing Company. Taken in the late 1940's.

The beginnings were humble, starting in local livery barns. Operators would buy whatever quantity of grain they could store and ship it downstream on steamboats in the spring. By 1873, quantities of wheat increased to a capacity far greater than the livery barn operators could handle. The completion of the Dakota Southern Railroad that year, however, Yankton became the center of grain marketing in the area.

Through the 1870s the local and upriver demand for grain increased. In addition to meeting this demand, over 30,000 bushels of grain were shipped east in 1875, testament not only to the value of the crops grown in Yankton County, but also to the volume of trade carried on at Yankton.

By the late 1870s, the Yankton market purchased from five to six thousand bushels of grain daily, starting in August. The peak season was during the months of January and February. In the peak season of 1878, the Dakota Southern Railroad was loading ten carsloads of grain per day for shipment to eastern terminals.

Oftentimes, grain buyers illustrated the competition for commodities by fighting it out in Yankton. One incident was described by the Press and Dakotan in 1876.

There was a clash of fists on Capitol Street yesterday and before it was over one grain buyer had another grain buyer by the scalp lock while his feet were walking a jig in the space where his head should have been.

Before 1868 hay was not a problem for the residents of Yankton. Throughout the winter months, residents could go to the "hay market" and purchase enough feed to meet their needs. But marketing hay in Yankton County did not become a business of consequence until after 1868, when the land surrounding the county seat became more settled, denoting free grazing access.

Yankton became a good place to sell hay in the 1870s with the increase of overland freighting. But in 1876, the town council passed an ordinance forbidding the sale of hay any place but on Broadway Street between Second and Third, and between Douglas Avenue between Fourth and Fifteenth Streets, because of the large volume of business. The merchants of Third Street were the chief promoters of the ordinance because the hay was clogging up the gutters in the business district and causing extra cleaning work.

The discovery in the late 1800s of a coal vein on the H.F. Jenks farm on the James River north of Yankton led to the formation of the Capital Coal Mining Company and the Southern Dakota Mining Company. Experts were brought into the area to supervise test drillings and samples of coal were brought to town and burned in public display.

Optimistic talk about a new industry in the county followed, but it was not to be. After two years the coal boom faded because poor economic feasibility and the lignite type quality of the deposits were two factors the promoters were unable to overcome.

Yankton Packing Company, a pork processing plant erected in the mid-1880s, started killing hogs on December 3, 1884. The plant soon boosted the processing capacity of 1,000 animals daily. Unfortunately the waste disposal and drainage problems for the city's sewage system, as reported by the February 6, 1885 edition of the Press and Dakotan.

The pork house company last fall did not have time to construct its sewers to carry off its refuse matter and was compelled to make a surface drain. As a result there is a stench in the neighborhood which the neighbors object. As soon as the frost is out of the ground, the sewer from the pork house to the river will be constructed and this unpleasant feature of the business will be abolished.

Before the turn of the century, Yankton County was the home of a woolen mill, creamery, three flour mills, two brick yards, a comb factory, soap plant, two breweries, carbonated water works, a cigar factory, wax tow mill and linseed oil plant. Another industry had crewmen of men and boys bundling cottonwood saplings along the Missouri River for sale to farmers and tree claim owners. At the height of each spring season, as many as 40,000 trees a day were brought to the county seat for shipment.

Almost since the beginning of white settlement in Yankton County, there had been speculation for the industrial use of the chalk rock formations along the Missouri River west of Yankton. The native limestone had been used as a building material in pioneer days, and in April of 1877, a geologist named Carl Hansen announced that the soft rock and blue clay deposits in the area offered a source of endless wealth. Combined with the natural artesian water of Yankton County, he said the two substances would make excellent cement, comparable to that produced in Portland, England, the city that lent its name to the important building product.

After John W. Summers Sr., representing British interests, came to Yankton in 1889 to analyze the chalkstone beds, Portland Cement Company was formed. The city and county acquired acres of chalkstone land for the county also subsidised peat bed work for a railroad spur bluffs and river connecting the area railroad lines.

The cement plant was in full operation in 1890, an uplifting sign for Yankton since drought was increasing. Typhoid fever had reached epidemic proportions in the winter of 1888-1889. The Broadway Hotel had closed on M Street because of the legislature's action.

With a capacity of more than 300 cement per year, Yankton had long been the center of the industry. It was a symbol of success for the installation of new equipment before, had caused a financial loss. According to some sources, the product was leased because of too much common earth. They saw no opportunity to fill the void created by the Portland Cement Company's withdrawal.

The generally accepted story is that, in an effort to sell a number of smaller plants in the state. After 1890, no more manufactured in Yankton County.

As the 20th century dawned, Barth Brewing Company, mar Rose Bud, "The South Dakota I Dakota is the only man who ever took over the old Rosebud property. In 1913, it built the last of which still dominates Yankton on Walnut Street.

CHAPTER 2

Yankton County has seen many industries come and go, b b 8; names associated with Gurney Seed and Nursery and George H. Whitman, who moved to Moody County is involved in plant and

The Original WNAI, in 1922, broa D.B. Gurney home.
CHAPTER 29

Yankton County has seen many businesses and industries come and go, but two of the biggest names associated with the area are Gurney Seed and Nursery and WNAX. George H. Whiting, who had originally moved to Moody County about 1891, returned to the area during the early 1900s for the industrial use of the chalkstone beds in the Western Portland Cement Company. The company acquired more than 300 acres of chalkstone land for the venture and the county also subsidized part of the road work for a railroad spur between the bluff and river connecting the company with the area railroad lines. The cement plant was in full operation by 1912, an uplifting sign for Yankton County, since drought was increasingly bad, cases of typhoid fever had reached epidemic proportions in the winter of 1889-1890 and the two breweries had closed on March 1, 1890 because of the legislature's vote for prohibition.

With a capacity of more than 10,000 barrels of cement per year, Yankton County's new industry enjoyed many years of prosperity. In 1914, the plant was remodeled and production quadrupled to 300,000 barrels annually. Unfortunately, the death of the company's president, William Finkten, in 1966, heralded the demise of the Western Portland Cement Company. His son, less knowledgeable about the cement business, was unable to sustain the firm's successful operation.

The installation of new equipment the year before had caused a financial burden, and according to some sources, the quality of the product was leaked because of an attempt to mix too much common earth with the clay. Carloads of rejected cement were consequently returned to the plant.

The generally accepted story of the plant's demise, however, is that the so-called international trade war, in an effort to control prices, bought a number of smaller plants and closed them down. After 1910, no more cement was manufactured in Yankton County.

As the 20th century dawned, Schwenk-Barth Brewing Company, manufacturers of Rose Bud, "The South Dakota beer for South Dakota people," headed by F.W. Schwenk, took over the old Roosterchaser brewery property. In 1911, it built the large plant, part of which still dominates Yankton's riverfront on Walnut Street.

As Radio moved westward and out of the crystal-set era, many Yankton area folks decided it was here to stay and invested in sets which brought hours of musical pleasure as a return. The popular Joe Feiger's dance band played early programs from Mrs. D.B. Gurney's home, source of first WNAX broadcast.

CHAPTER 29

T30

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CHAPTER 30

T31

As the automobile age dawned in Yankton County, roads were built and travel difficulties began to become a thing of the past with one major exception — crossing the Missouri River.

The county seat was located on the route of a planned north-south arterial highway, and in 1911 the Yankton Elevated Railway was authorized. The railroad was ready to operate in 1911, but the Missouri River flooded, and the machinery of the company was salvaged and put back into service on the Kite, which hit a snag and sank in 17 feet of water in May of 1877.

The Missouri River was a major obstacle to travel in the area. The "Josie L.K." Missouri River ferry at Yankton, 1896-1930.

The Decade of the 1920s was an era of individual and economic freedom being expressed by people of all walks of life. The "Flappers," the Charleston dance, and "hautomobiles" were common even in County, as its residents were swept away by prosperity. The decade of the 1930s was a time of struggle and hardship for many. The Great Depression hit the country hard, and people struggled to make ends meet.

The Meridian Bridge was completed in 1912, and the Yankton Public Library was opened in 1913. The Yankton County Historical Society was formed in 1914, and the Yankton County Courthouse was completed in 1922. The Yankton County Fair was established in 1923, and the Yankton County Athletic Association was formed in 1924.

The decade of the 1930s was an era of economic boom and progress for the state of South Dakota. The Meridian Bridge across the Missouri River was completed in 1932, and the Yankton County Fairgrounds were expanded in 1935.

The Great Depression hit the country hard, and people struggled to make ends meet. The Yankton County Historical Society was formed in 1914, and the Yankton County Courthouse was completed in 1922. The Yankton County Fair was established in 1923, and the Yankton County Athletic Association was formed in 1924.
CHAPTER 31

The decade of the 1920s was an era of social and individual freedom expressed in a variety of ways by the people of the nation. "Flappers," the Charleston dance and "beach girls" were common even in Yankton County, as its residents were swept up in the wave of prosperity. The April 30, 1927 Press and Dakotan reported:

A thin, curling, column of smoke rising from an island in the Missouri River led federal, state and county officers onto a complete still, several gallons of alleged moonshine, wine and empty bottles when they raided the island... It was one of the most complete outfits taken in this county, the officers stated.

But the devil-may-care attitude of the 1920s faded with Black Friday — the collapse of the New York Stock Exchange on October 29, 1929, heralding the beginning of the Great Depression. During the decade that followed, Yankton County was to feel the effects of the economic disaster as much as any other section of the country.

When the stock market crashed, South Dakota was already experiencing problems with its rural credit system. By 1930, farm commodity prices became more depressed, which wiped out what little savings rural residents might have accumulated, and their purchasing power was reduced, an unhappy fact soon felt by town merchants. To further the rural crisis, the summer temperatures began skyrocketing, a prelude to the drought that was to plague Yankton County residents for nearly ten years.

In July of 1930, the mercury rose to over 100 degrees, and the heat persisted until crops abricaded in the fields. Cattle and hogs suffered from the high temperatures as well, and as farmers rushed them to market, prices were forced downward another notch with the shipping flurry.

"The Dirty Thirties," as the wearying decade came to be known, were aptly titled, as drought ravaged the midwest, adding to the complications of the Depression. The Press and Dakotan reported on April 18, 1932:

One of the worst dust storms which many years visited Yankton and the surrounding territo- rity yesterday. Old-timers here failed to recall as severe a storm of the kind as far back as 30 or 40 years. The thick dust tilted the air and obscured the sun and many motorists used the lights on their cars as a precaution.

A later Press and Dakotan article, this one from February 5, 1934, almost repeated the earlier story.

Another of the severe dust storms which have marked the weather in this section of the past few months occurred Saturday afternoon, Yankton sharing in a blast that swept the entire northwest. Breeze on a strong northwest wind, the air become so laden with dust that visibility was dimmed and automo-

biles drove with headlights on for safety. The fine dust and grit sifted through closed windows and laid a deep film over home furnishings. It banked deep on window sills and made the serving of customers dis- greetable for storekeepers who found it diffi-

cult to keep their wares free of silt.

"Red clouds" were the result of par- ching temperatures baking over-farmed land not properly covered by vegetation. The wind erosion was largely a delayed reparation from the intensified tillage of World War I, when the government appealed for full-scale food production with patriotic slogans: "If you Can't Fight, Farm!" and "Flow to the Fence for National Defense."

Housewives in Yankton County and all over the midwest packed towels and other materials around window sills and door thresholds when resultant storm rose on the horizon. In time, the repeated summertime gales piled the silt along fencerows like snowdrifts.

Despite the dust and economic hard times, Yankton County farmers carried through with action, rather than despair. In 1932, many of them joined the National Farmers' Holiday Strike in an effort to fight poor prices. The strike, designed to withhold agricultural products from market, was insti-
gated with Sioux City, Iowa, as a prime large Farmers' blocs blockaded highways with boards full of nails to prevent trucks from passing, and as a special symbol of their actions, they pulled out an empty pocket of their bib overalls.

The Press and Dakotan of August 24, 1932, reported:

First picketing of roads leading into Yank-
ton by farmers protesting the National Farmers' Holiday began at midnight last night when a group of about 50 Cedar County farmers... blockaded U.S. Highway 81 at the junction of Nebraska Highway 35 about one mile south of the Meridian Highway bridge... about twenty truck loads of cattle have been turned around and sent back to the farms from which they were shipped... Several truck loads of milk and cream, bound for Yankton creameries, also were turned back, and a truck of the Van Osdel Poultry Farm near Yankton, loaded with empty poultry crates, stopped which farmers claimed that it would not be allowed to bring a load of poultry to the market.

The effort, unfortunately, did little but call attention to the farmers' problems and the result was that Yankton County residents, like people all over the country, turned more and more to government assistance.

Through the Civil Works Administration, Yankton got a new city hall, had its main street widened and an artificial lake was dug in Westside Park. Some 650 Yankton County men participated in CWA and WPA Progress Administration (WPA) projects, which brought badly needed dollars into the area. Some people went to work haying sand for road repairs or cutting wool.

Unfortunately, economic turnaround, promised by President Franklin D. Roosevelt with his New Deal programs, did not come as quickly hoped. Temperatures remained high and prices stayed low. In 1933, feeder calves sold for five cents per pound or less. Hogs brought a similar unprofitable return and finally the federal government stepped in to buy and dispose of thousands of surplus animals. And to make matters worse, Yank-
ton County farmers were faced with the spread of an extremely contagious livestock disease called anthrax, which was also trans-
mittable to humans. As a result, the Missouri River in Nebraska, numerous cats, dogs and coyotes had fallen victim to the scourge, and several cattle herds were quarantined. In the years to follow, many stricken animals were to be haggled into quickly dug pits where they were burned and buried.

Despite severe cases of poverty and related hardships, Yankton County people were not plagued by the sense of desperation which could only pull a few to the music of Lawrence Welk's Hoanolu Fruit Gum Orchestra and participated in walka-

The "Meridian Highway Bridge" across the Missouri River at Yankton.
CHAPTER 32

John G. Neihardt's "Eternal Fighting Man," the Missouri River, had long been viewed as a workhorse to be corralled and utilized. If it could be contained, the Missouri River might provide the irrigation and electricity, and dams on the river would prevent the inevitable disaster.
CHAPTER 33

War — a sad, but true reality — had many different effects on the Yankton County, South Dakota, area. Celebrations for patriotism and welcome home parades marked the earlier conflicts away from U.S. soils. Patriotic fervor blossomed throughout the area when troops were called to readiness after the February 15, 1948, sinking of the U.S. battleship Independence in the Havana, Cuba, harbor. The American public, aroused by inflammatory newspaper editorials, was convinced that the Americans had perpetuated the disaster. By April, the U.S. Congress recognized Cuba’s independence from Spain, and President William McKinley was authorized to use military and naval forces of the U.S. to bring about a Congressional resolution to fight for that independence.

Company C, commanded by Captain William S. Gray, was ordered to move to Sioux Falls. On May 2, 1898, the local Women’s Relief Corps paid a farewell party to Yankton troops. Flags were flown, crowds filled the streets and the following day, the Press and Dakota reported on Company C’s departure:

A vast throng of people gathered at the corners of Third and Cedar streets this morning at the first sound of the bugle and watched with keenest interest the preparations of Company C for its departure for Sioux Falls. The soldiers appeared in heavy marching attire with knapsacks and canteens hung upon their backs... Once in line, Janssen the photographer made two negatives of the company and Capt. Gray’s order to form was given across a cheer. The men formed a line and marched to Third Street and west to the railroad depot. Enroute the soldiers sang their company song, “Goodbye, Old Yankton, Goodbye.”

Company C, in time, became part of the First South Dakota Volunteer Infantry Regiment, sent first to San Francisco, then to the Philippines. There the unit fought commendably against insurgent troops, and ironically, all but four of the battle occurred after the U.S. signed a peace treaty with Spain.

“A war after war” suddenly lost its patriotic flavor at home and on the battlefields. By late 1914, World War I had ended in Europe, and the First South Dakota was relieved by the 156th U.S. Infantry and returned to Sioux Falls.

As Yankton County was experiencing the prosperity of new industry and growth in the early 1900s, its troops were mobilized again for service in France. (Pershing led an army of 75,000 men in combat in Columbus, New Mexico, on March 9, 1916, killing 17 Americans.)

President Woodrow Wilson ordered the mobilization of the South Dakota National Guard. The local Company M was commanded by Capt. Joseph Mills Hanson, son of Joseph R. Hanson, who had served in the territorial militia in the Yankton Stockade. From Redfield, the troops moved on to San Benito, Texas, on the Mexican border. For seven months, South Dakotans served on guard duty and field training maneuvers along the Rio Grande.

Not long after it was welcomed home on March 4, 1917, Company M was alerted again — on April 10 — when the official declaration of war against Germany was presented. “Camp Hanson” was established at Wildwood Park (Kelly’s Cove) on the banks of the James River, just 100 yards or so south of the original Fort-Todd trading post. Yankton soldiers were stationed there until new recruits signed up and further orders were awaited.

Yankton County residents were caught up in a surge of patriotic display at the declaration of war, as illustrated by the March 19, 1917 Press and Dakota:

Mayor Wyman (of Yankton) issued a call for a citizens’ group of local men and women to take part in a war parade, every man and every woman. The patriotic fervor secured the loyalty to the government and president in the opening days of the war and appreciation of the men who were enlisting to work with their services to Uncle Sam in response to his call to arms. The Yankton County War Committee met in end of front on the Press and Dakota office in order that several short patriotic addresses may be made from the balcony of the building.

“...But a substantial number of ex-German citizens were trapped between a respect for their fatherland as they remembered it, and their growing love for their new home. Super patriots, however, allowed no middle-of-the-road attitudes. Kaiser lovers were vilified and the homes of so-called slackers and Boche-sympathizers were daubed with yellow paint. German books, dishes and even valuable heirlooms were burned in public displays. In Creek in Yankton County, a private Marne, German fried potatoes were no longer served in Yankton area restaurants by that name, and teaching or speaking the German language was frowned upon.

A well-sentimented, wartime activities at home included fundraising for supplies such as canteens and tobacco.

When Armistice was declared on November 11, 1918, the county seat celebrated by ringing church bells. Twenty-five members of the County Home on May 24, 1919, and others who had been scattered all over the world soon came home individually or in small groups. A city-wide homeward day was proclaimed on September 1, 1919, with county residents from far and wide joining in the celebration.

Free chicken for the veterans and their ladies highlighted the festivities, but a sad and sobering part of the celebration was the 25 empty places, decorated with a symbolic gold star, set for Yankton County servicemen who lost their lives in or because of the war.

Yankton County sent another contingent of young men and women off on a patriotic crusade in 1941. Battery E of the 147th Field Artillery, the Yankton National Guard Unit, had been called up earlier, however, in November of 1940. After almost a year of training, the troops were on their way to the South Pacific, for a four-year hitch. By the time Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, the 147th was already some 1,500 miles southwest of Hawaii.

Again, throughout the war, Yankton County residents entered into patriotic rallies. Red Cross volunteers knitted and wrapped bandages, victory gardens were planted and War Bond collections were held. On VE and VJ days, May 8 and August 14, 1945, respectively, the county seat held boisterous impromptu celebrations, marked with happiness for the end of World War II, and tears for the Yankton County servicemen who lost loved ones in the global struggle.

North Korean forces invaded South Korea on June 25, 1950, and since President Harry Truman had already made a decision to commit the U.S. Air Force and Navy as the UN Security Council called for armed resistance to the North Koreans, he ordered gunfire support of South Korean troops. U.S. ground forces were committed to battle by June 30.

From Yankton, the 196th Infantry Regimental Combat Team, the local National Guard unit, deployed to Colorado, for training one year. The unit was stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, from April 13 to July 12, 1962.

The unpopular Vietnam War had an impact on area residents as well, especially when memories of the war were brought back on April 29, 1965, when the Yankton County courthouse was set ablaze in Fort Atkinson, Richmond, during 1965.

In the April 26, 1985 issue of the Missouri Valley Observer, a young veteran from Yankton talked about Vietnam. Excerpts are reprinted here:

...It’s hard not to feel some very strong emotions in talking about Vietnam when you were there," said Steve Kudera, formerly a gunfire control technician with the Navy from 1969 to 1973. "It was a traumatic experience. The technology of the war made it difficult to endure. Weapons could hurt you even when you couldn’t see the enemy; when he was miles away... "(But) when I was here, I knew exactly where I was and what was going on. It was proper. I served my country in what I thought was right. I’m proud I served and I wouldn’t do it a thing differently.

CHAPTER 34

The fertile Missouri River Valley has long provided excellent agricultural opportunities — first discovered by the Arickara Indians prior to the 1700s. These agricultural tribesmen used corn, squash, and a native narrow-leaf tobacco in their home plots. Crude tools, chiefly a bow or spears made from the shoulder blade of a buffalo, were used to break the soil, which yielded sufficient crops to feed the Indian families. To enhance their tobacco yields, the Arickaras understood the value of fertilizer and used it. To fight birds and
Early farming.

One of the early harvest time methods used to haul hay.

Insects, they lived close to their gardens and children drove grasshoppers away with small willow boughs.

Since white settlement, agriculture has been the chief industry of Yankton County. From its small beginnings, it has developed into a multi-million dollar business. With family and corporate farms alike, battling for better marketing practices and good prices for commodities. Horses, of course, no longer do the fieldwork, as huge tractors now chug over the landscape from April to October.

When the first Dakota Territory pioneers settled in Yankton County, their agricultural progress was slow and discouraging due to their unfamiliarity with the climate and soil. Pests, such as grasshoppers, added to their frustration.

Until the late 1880s, wheat was the principal crop in Yankton. Corn, oats, soybeans, and sorghum joined the agricultural commodities list as time went on and through the work of Professor Nils Ebyson Hansen, South Dakota’s famed plant scientist, hay grew in its prominence as a Missouri Valley crop.

After traveling Asia, western China and Siberia, the professor shipped home five carloads of seeds and plants, among which was the foundation stock of crested wheatgrass and hardy Cossack alfalfa.

Livestock — chiefly cattle, hogs and sheep — has long been part of Yankton County’s agricultural industry. On October 27, 1984, the Prairie and Dakota was reported:

In a range of crops and livestock industries, Yankton County is a mid-county in the state.

Despite the agricultural productivity of the Missouri Valley, farm crisis have influenced the region’s history in a negative light.

Members of the National Farmers Organization brought their message of unhappiness with commodity prices to the fore in 1964, when they attempted to enforce a withholding action in the movement of livestock to auction markets and packing plants. Violence, apparently brought on by NFO members, was even reported by a northeastern Yankton County farmer. After he sold three head of cattle that had continually been breaking out of his pasture, a dynamite explosion in the middle of the night tore a hole in his front yard, spewing debris everywhere.

No one was hurt, but the apparent ire of NFO members was felt.

A destructive flood, brought on by heavy spring rains in 1984, hampered Yankton County farmers’ efforts to work in their fields. By the first week in May, 80,000 acres in Yankton County, and its neighbor Clay County, were under water, affecting the planting season and ultimately the harvest, of small grains, corn and soybeans. Alfalfa in many areas of the Missouri Valley was also drowned out. South Dakota leaders began seeking disaster aid for flood victims as Yankton County area residents faced more rain in June. Floodwaters threatened farms on the banks of the James River and washed away valuable topsoil.

Yankton County was one of the 22 counties in South Dakota that received heavy damages from the rains and flooding in June. Statewide, Governor William Janklow reported an estimated $330,418,000 in damages to agriculture.

Farm crisis meetings hit the news in February of 1980, as agriculture and business representatives alike united around the county and region to try and help the plumping farm economy and make an attempt to stop the nationwide problem of small farmers from going out of business. As a result of the meetings, the Farm Crisis Group was formed to support lower interest rates and higher commodity prices.

Agriculture in Yankton County seems to ride a roller coaster — from prosperity to problems, but Yankton County farmers remain strong in their efforts to produce their crops. High interest rates, low commodity prices, bad weather and pests will always plague them, but the heritage of pioneer strength and tenacity will always prevail.

(See photo next page.)

Early farming at Harvest time in Yank

CHAPTER 35

As the former territorial capital as seat, Yankton’s history has long been a pioneer in the development of South Dakota and the Missouri Valley. But other towns have also played a significant role in the development of the region.

The 100-acre townsite of Gayville surveyed in March of 1873. No railroad contractor Ellahack Gay, a city boasted three general mercantile establishments, a post office, a drug store, blacksmith shop and several granaries by April 30 of the same year. Gayville’s charter was filed at the county courthouse on June 1, 1873 (the incorporation in 1901). From that time, Gayville has lived through everything from drought, depression, flood, fire and a depression.

In 1879, prairie fires almost engulfed the city of Gayville. Grasshoppers destroyed the crops in the area in 1874 and 1876. Floodwaters from the Missouri River rampaged over the town, where Gayville rests in 1875, 1881, 1892 and 1904. During the years 1881 and 1906, drought plagued the environment in which Gayville was formed.

The railroad was a major factor in Gayville’s early prosperity. In 1873, a completed line from Sioux City to Yankton stopped every day at Gayville, providing a market for the cotton and grain that were carried to Sioux City. Gayville was a busy place.

Presently, Gayville is the heart of the richest alfalfa producing region in the state, with the best alfalfa yields, highest prices for hay, and the best weather conditions for alfalfa growth. Gayville is located on a hill between Yankton and Vermillion, Dakota Territory.
CHAPTER 35

T36

At the former territorial capital and county seat, Yankton's history has long been the front runner in historical accounts about South Dakota and the Missouri Valley area. But other towns have also played significant roles in the development of the country. The 100-acre townsite of Gayville was surveyed in March of 1873. Named for railroad contractor Elkanah Gay, the small city boasted three general mercantile establishments, a post office, a drug store, a blacksmith shop and several grain warehouses by April 25 of the same year.

Gayville's charter was filed at the county courthouse on June 1, 1873 (the town was incorporated in 1901). From that time on, it has lived through everything from prosperity to drought, depression, flood, fire and grasshoppers.

In 1879, prairie fires almost engulfed the infant city of Gayville. Grasshoppers destroyed unharvested crops in the area during 1874 and 1876. Floodwaters from the Missouri River rampaged over the bottomlands where Gayville rests in 1875, 1881, 1897, 1916, 1932 and 1944. During the years 1894, 1910-11 and the 1930s, drought plagued the rural environment in which Gayville was the hub.

The railroad was a major reason for Gayville's early prosperity. In 1873, a line was completed from Sioux City to Yankton and the train stopped every day at Gayville. By 1896, livestock yards with loading chutes were built in town to enable farmers to transport their cattle to Sioux City or Chicago for market.

Presumably, Gayville is in the heart of one of the heaviest alfalfa producing regions any- where, one of the reasons it survives. Another plus is that it is located on Highway 50 between Yankton and Vermillion, and receives much of the commuter traffic.

Valin was platted in 1894 and named for Henry P. Valin, a French-Canadian freighter who owned the land adjacent to the actual townsite.

The Farmers Trading Company, established in 1908, was one of Valin's major businesses, handling grain and fuel first, then feed, seeds, fertilizer and fencing. The town also had two railroads, several stores and a newspaper, the Valin Advance. It reached its peak population in the 1920s.

Valin's stamped-metal town hall, built in 1905, continues to serve as a focal point and entertainment center for the town, which enjoys a revived interest due to the booster activities of the Valin Days and the Valin Community Club.

"Valin is a very quiet place," said long-time resident Evelyn Lieb in the April 25, 1975 issue of the Press and Dakotan. "It's kind of a struggling little town, but if we want something or want to do something, we always seem to do it.

There are conflicting reports of the beginning of Yankton. One account has the area settled by a Mr. Koch, who built a small store in the area in 1870. The story adds that the town was originally called "Moscow" because of the predominating German-Roman settlement close by. Another story gives credit to Henry Rudd of Missouri, who settled in the area on March 1, 1876. Building a sod house on the stage line where the coach stopped to change horses and feed passengers. The site later became a post office. The name Luster- ville was adopted, according to the Rudd story, because of the Missourian's sentiment of passing through Luster, Iowa, on his way to Dakota Territory, or for his grandson Luster Dix.

Nevertheless, the town was officially platted on January 20, 1885, and began to grow as the railroad boom began. The first business, a general merchandise store, was built by Frank Barkl. A lumber yard and saloon soon followed and it wasn't long before Lusterville boasted an elevator, blacksmith shop, harness shop, bank, and butcher shop.

The town hall was built in 1907 and the cenotaph figures of 1915 reported 301 souls living in the little city. By that time, it bustled with more businesses, including four elevators, two pool halls, two hotels, a drug store, an electricity plant, lumber yard and two livery stables. The Lusterville Ledger began publication in 1903.

The land on which Utica was platted, was homesteaded by N.W. Taylor, who received his title on December 10, 1889. He later sold the property to Daniel McCarley, who in turn sold it for a town on September 1, 1893. Utica was incorporated in 1896.

In 1900, the Czech educational society that had been formed in Utica, along with Lodge River of Custer County (Lodge River No. South Dakota), No. 71, built a town hall which housed a library, hosted annual plays and served as a center for classes in the Czech heritage.

Businesses in early day Utica included a saloon, blacksmith shop, general merchandise store, an elevator, a butcher shop, bank, garage, drugstore and hotel. In the April 25, 1975 edition of the Press and Dakotan, Alvin Lane, a farmer in the Utica area, said, "This was quite a town once. . . . Then the depression came along . . . people just got cars instead of riding the trains."

The year after the Great Northern Railroad roadbed was extended from Sioux Falls to Yankton, 1894, Abraham Lincoln Van Osdel platted the town of Mission Hill. Its name was adopted after a Congregational mission Rev. D.B. Nichols had established on the hill adjacent to the townsite. On the hill is now the Congregational building which is now part of the United Church of Christ - Congregational Church.

Rev. D.B. "Father" Nichols was a noted minister and a legend in Mission Hill because of his kindly nature and generous sacrificial spirit. But it was Van Osdel who really led the way in the development of the town. One of his first contributions was planting, watering and nurturing the stately elms which shaded Mission Hill for over 70 years until the Dutch elm disease of the 1960s and 1970s thinned them out. He also planned the park on the south side of town below the bluff. Paying area farmers $4 a load for rocks they picked off their fields, he lined the shoreline of the small lake in the park and created walks and steps around the water.

The ambitious Van Osdel also erected a statue of Abraham Lincoln, which still stands on the bluff overlooking the park which bears his name.

Mission Hill's boom period was between 1910 and 1920. It had two railroads and its main street was lined with a mercantile store, a post office, a newspaper office (The Historic Times), a hardware store, a drugstore, a restaurant, bank, meat market, lumber company, garage and elevators.

Although it has a smaller population and less activity, Mission Hill still survives. It still has a post office and locker, as well as two churches, a grade school and elevator.
A NOTE FROM THE AUTHOR

Although this narrative history of Yankton County must come to an end, the story of its people continues.

History is a never-ending process—it’s the yesterday that shapes tomorrow. But recording events of the past can be difficult, especially under limitations of time and space. In my research, I found that the story of Yankton County is jam-packed with names and events that are integral to the development of the Missouri Valley region. Unfortunately it is impossible to list them all in this chronological. Consequently, the preceding chapters are meant only to give you, the reader, a taste of Yankton County’s past as its people look toward the future.

Yankton County is not just a geographical section of South Dakota. It is the home of people whose lives are tied to the banks of the Missouri River. It’s the development of Dakota Territory by a handful of hardy pioneers from diverse backgrounds. It’s building homes, schools and churches and cultivating the soil. Yankton County and its people represent a Dakota heritage — the perseverance to survive a myriad of challenges on the way to success.

The future is a mystery, but Yankton County and her people stand strong to face its trials and tribulations. Yes, this story may have come to a close, but like life, Yankton County’s tale goes on.

by M. Jill Karolevitz

YANKTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC. T38

In 1960 Don Binder was President of the Yankton Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Chairman of the Yankton Centennial Committee. The Dakotas Territorial Centennial to be celebrated in Yankton on June 18-24, 1961, both Binder and Stanaage, as well as others were vitally interested in forming a permanent Historical Organization for Yankton.

On February 4, 1960, Dr. Stanaage called a meeting, interested parties, for the purpose of organizing such a Society. The meeting was held in, what was known as the Municipal Court Room in the City Hall. Dr. Stanaage was named temporary chairman, and Miss Emma Meistrik was named temporary secretary. During the evening an organization to be known as the “Yankton County Historical Society” was formed and the following officers elected: Dr. W.F. Stanaage, President; Harold L. Tisher, Vice-President; Emma Meistrik, Secretary; and Albert Nelson, Treasurer.

Harry Robinson, Howard Combs, and Charles Johnson were named as directors. The dues were set at $1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children of school age.

Yankton County Historical Society Board of Directors front row L - R: Don Binder, Curator, Isabel Sattler, Harold Tisher, Dr. W. Stanaage, Jim Cwach, George Muller, and standing L - R: Bob Lichowski, Elliot Mudelth, Floyd Thompson, Dr. Robin Hasecky, Dave Drekker, Dr. Art Matson, and President Ben Van Osd. Taken in 1983.

The next meeting was held on March 23, 1960, when Joe Vinatieri was named Curator. James Cwach, Thurman Wetland, and Albert Gunderson were added as directors. The general meetings of the Society were scheduled for the second Thursday of the months of January, April, July, and October, with a speaker to be selected for each meeting. The regular officers were to meet at the call of the President.

The third meeting of the Society and the first general meeting was called for April 14, 1960, as outlined in the minutes. J. Leonard Jensen was, from the History Department of Dakota Wesleyan, Mitchell, and Chairman of the South Dakota Centennial Commission was the speaker. The subject of his talk was “Dr. Valentine T. McIlroy: Historian, Surgeon, Surveyor, Indian Agent at Pine Ridge and President of the School of Mines."

This was an interesting evening, and the new Yankton County Historical Society was on its way.

When the Yankton County Historical Society, Inc. was organized the purpose of the Society was set out as:

To collect, preserve, exhibit, and publish material for the study of the history of Yankton County.

To acquire documents, letters, reports, pictures, and relics.

To obtain the narratives of pioneers.

To obtain and safeguard a gallery of portraits and events of the past and maintain it up to date and to promote it in all the schools in the county.

To study the history of the county and of the State of South Dakota.

This was not the first Historical Society organized in Yankton. In 1862 the "Old Settlers Historical Association" was organized and incorporated by the first Legislature in Dakota Territory. Unfortunately one of their by-laws limited their membership. It said:

"No person shall become a member of this Society, who first became an inhabitant of the Territory after the passage of the Organic Act."

The Organic Act was the enabling act that legalized the formation of the Territory of Dakota. It was passed by the U.S. Congress and became law when signed by President James Buchanan, March 2, 1861, his last day in office.

On May 25, 1863, a new organization was formed under the name of "Dakota Historical and Library Association", to replace the old one. The legislature of 1863 passed an act entitled "An act to incorporate the Historical Society of Dakota."

This act served to unite the "Old Settlers Historical Society of Dake-
ta" and the "Historical and Library Association."

On New Years Day 1864 the incorporators met and effected a permanent organization known as the "Historical Society of Dakota" which was the fore-runner or parent organization of our present State Historical Society, now known as the "Historical Resources Center" at Pierre, South Dakota.

One of the areas of responsibility for the newly formed Society was to incorporate. Harry Robinson, a Yankton attorney and a director of the Society was assigned the task. This was accomplished by August 15, 1861, and the Charter was signed by Stanaage, Tisher, and Lilianne Wigen.

The Society as well as the Museum is the responsibility of the Board of Directors. When the Society was organized the by-laws were provided for the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Curator, and six (6) Directors. Over the years the by-laws have been changed to allow for fifteen (15) Directors. There has been a complete turnover of officers and directors with the exception of three, James Cwach, Dr. Willis and Harold L. Tisher. The officer has been filled by several different but Lilianne Wigen held the office anywhere, sixteen (16) years.

On February 1, 1971, the fort members of the "Old Settlers A- Pioneers" who had been active in the community, George Yankton County Historical Society. The Society has had three Joseph Vinatieri, George B. Gern putter and Dr. Albert Nelson.

Before the Museum was built, met in many different places: Charles Gurney, WNXA Studios, mer of Commerce Office, the R Chateau Dining Room, Kochi M Room, and others. In those days sa tion centered around improv isity and building a museum committees were appointed. Mo ideas were discussed, and more were offered in the community. V planning and activity, as the time building fund began to slowly go in this effort, both the City Com the Yankton County Commission favorably to this worthwhile and community. They backed their giving the Society as much fees they possibly could. In addition Commission allowed the Society their museum building in one parks. Today the museum is del belongs to the city and the coum.

The success of the Society and I would not have been possible v the cooperation of so many people in the community who all their share to the "wheel" to t: They gave of their time, their dor never turned back when the de the success of the Yankton County Historical Society really belongs to the community who helped w needed.

After twenty-four (24) years the alive and well and looks forward more service of the Yanktonity.

by Harold

YANKTON'S MUSEUM

On March 2, 1863, President signed the Organic Act creating Territory. From this area were f States of South Dakota, North Montana, Wyoming and part of Id one. The Territory was organized Pres. before he left office the Organic Act, it now became the c incorporated. I appointed the First Governor of developed Dakota Territory. This he authorized this film as a family physician from Springfield Dr. William Jaynes, to fill this important position.

Yankton was designated the capital and on the 17th of Mr a very pleasant day and the sky at high noon Governor Jaynes order
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difficult. The success of the Yankton County Historical Society really belongs to everyone in the community who helped when it was needed.

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After twenty-four (24) years the Society is alive and well and looks forward to many more years of service to the Yankton Community.

by Harold L. Tisher

YANKTON'S MUSEUM

On March 2, 1861, President Buchanan

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signed the Organic Act for Dakota

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State. This area was formed for the

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States of South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and part of Idaho. Since

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one of the last official acts of Pres. Buchanan before he left office was the signing of this Organic Act, it now became the duty of the incoming President, Abraham Lincoln, to appoint the First Governor of the newly formed Dakota Territory. This he did when he appointed his good friend and former family physician from Springfield, Illinois, Dr. William Jayne, to fill this new and important position.

Yankton was designated the temporary capital city and on the 17th of March, 1862, (a very pleasant day and the sky cloudless) at high noon Governor Jayne ordered the two houses assembled. They met in a new frame building on the southeast corner of 4th & Broadway. Yankton, 4th District, was repre-

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sented by Downer T: Bramble & Enoch Stottsman. Soon after roll-call and the reaid-

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ing of the Governor's first message, a debate as to where the capital would be permanently located began. Yankton and Vermillion were rival candidates with the town of Bismarck a close competitor. On the 11th day of the Session, Enoch Stottsman introduced a bill to "Locate the seat of Government of Dakota Territory at Yankton." Final proceedings, with the aid of a body of troops from "Company A Dakota Cavali-

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y, with muskets marched to the speakers stand and remained during the session by request of Speaker Pinney. On Saturday, the 20th day of the session, Yankton was picked as the Capital and approved by Governor Jayne on Tuesday, April 8, 1862.

One of the buildings in which the above action took place, the "Council or Senate" building was destined to become Yankton's First Museum. The building was originally erected as a dwelling during the winter of 1861-1862 near the southeast corner of Broadway & Fourth Street. Sometimes after this first Historical Session, it also was used as a law office. About 1893, it was sold and moved to the Rucker farm west of Yankton where, for more than forty years, it was used as a granary and storage shed.

About 1938 Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company of Newark, New Jersey, who then owned the farm, offered the old building to Daniel Newcomb Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. A restoration project was undertaken by a committee representing the Chamber of Commerce and the D.A.R. The entire structure was torn down, rebuilt, and restored. The building that emerged was 37 ft. long by 23 ft. wide with white exterior and gray shutters.

The building, as restored, was first located at Riverside Park, Broadway & First Streets, overlooking the Missouri River and its dedic-

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Various civic and fraternal organizations supported the project with volunteer labor, funds, and other cooperative effort. The Jaycees painted the building inside and out with over 800 volunteer man hours expended to complete the project.

On Sunday, May 24, 1983, in an appropriate ceremony, the Old Council Building was again dedicated this time as "Yankton's Dakota Territorial Museum."

The ladies auxiliary of V.F.W. Post 791, presented the colors to the D.A.R. and Chamber of Commerce, patron organizations. Mrs. Tony Koenig made the presentation on behalf of the Auxiliary to Dr. Evelyn Holt, Regent of Daniel Newcomb Chapter of the D.A.R., who then presented the flag to Joseph Vinatieri, who raised the colors to the top of the staff. Chamber President, Clayton Christoppherson, Lorna Veling, and Lucille Edridge also participated. Music was by the Yankton College Band directed by J. Luten Wood.

Many fund raising projects were held to pay off the debt on the Museum, such as, house to house Drive, business canvases, and a benefit baseball game between the Yankton Terry's and the Winner Pheasants. Mrs Robert Fincher and Mrs. Dave Studsnapel were co-chairmen of the Donation Drive, members of the Yankton Chamber of Commerce, Baseball Commission, interested housewives, Press and Radio participated in the drive with the goal of $5,000.00 established.

Yankton and the surrounding community responded generously, not only with money, but also with artifacts to display in the Museum. Attics were searched, sentimental keepsakes and family heirlooms were gathered together and either loaned or given to the Museum for display. In anticipation of the Dakota Territory Centennial Celebration in Yankton during the week of June 18-24, 1981, the Old Museum was given a new look. Log cabin siding was added to the building. It was during this time that new interest developed in the formation of the Yankton County Historical Society, which, on the 16th day of August, 1981, was chartered as a non-profit corporation.

The need for a new and larger Museum building was immediately recognized. One of the first things the newly-formed society did was to seriously study this matter.

A Museum Steering Committee consisting of Harold Tisher, Chairman, Donald Ward, Jarl Holman, Joseph Vinatieri, and Lillian Wigen was formed. This committee gave consideration to a number of existing buildings that might be suitable for museum purposes. In due time and after thorough study, it was decided that the best course would be to build a new building and locate it in West Side Park. The building committee with Harold Tisher, Chna, studied a number of options and alternatives and finally, after a review of the bids, awarded the contract to Metal Building Systems, Inc. of Sioux City, Iowa. The contractor locally was Marvin (Pal) Christiansen.

In February 1989 a "Museum Fund" drive was officially kicked off with a full page ad in the Press & Dakotan.

Dr Robin Hasecky, Chna, Chet Stewart, and Joseph Vinatieri were responsible for the fund raising campaign. The new building was built in 1992 through various fund raising projects including the raffle off of a car, home town talent shows under the direction of Carl Hawley, professional theatre director from the John B. Rogers Co., who produced the 1981 Centennial Pageant. Local merchants donated the stock shares they had purchased for financing the Centennial Celebration and many other private donations were made by supporters of the Museum project.

Finally the new building was completed, and on September 24, 1970 the contractor "Pal" Christiansen officially turned the keys over to Harold Tisher and the building committee. The next major task was moving all of the museum artifacts from the old building into the new Museum. This was accomplished with the help of local volunteers, the D.A.R. Auxiliary, Curator Joseph Vinatieri, Vanita Grimm and her special helpers as well as the local Boy Scout Troop No. 180 under Scout Master John G. Haasma.

Finally all was in readiness and on Memorial Day, May 30, 1971, at 2 PM the formal dedication and grand opening of the new Museum was held with the appropriate program. Master of Ceremonies was Bob Karollevic, Invocation by Rev. Karl Barnum, and Posting of Colors by the V.F.W. Color Guard. West Novotny, Mayor of Yankton spoke briefly; Ron Heuer, Pres. of The Yankton County Historical Society also expressed his thanks to all. Evan Nolte, Mgr. of the Chamber of Commerce, spoke on the importance of the Museum to the community. This was followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony by: Mayor Novotny, Pres. Heuer, Joseph Vinatieri, Curator, and Harold Tisher. Boy Scout Troop No. 180 and the Antique Car Club also participated in the affair.

In July of 1971 George B. German was named Director of the Museum. He set about his new job with the help of Curator Joe Vinatieri and many friends and associates and did a fine job of locating artifacts and getting displays and exhibits set up.

By August 12, 1973, the Museum became debt free. In a short symbolic process, Dr. Willis Steagn, President of the YCHS & Prabir Engen of Yolac and a member of the Board, burned a note in the amount of $6,497.25, in an old time farm forge while the Musicians Union Band played in concert. Mr. Engen, also a County Commissioner, was instrumental in getting county assistance on an annual basis for maintenance of the Museum.

For a time the old Territorial Council Museum Building was used as a Boy Scout meeting hall. However, it soon became necessary to take the building and put it back into service as a museum. Historical items were being donated to the museum in ever increasing numbers and required this additional space.

The Gundersen Rural School House No. 15, which was originally located one mile west of the Human Services Center and two miles north and was in use as a school from 1906 until abandoned in 1980, was moved to the museum grounds under the Co-Chairmanship of Jarl Holman and Jim Owach, as a Bicentennial project in 1976.

During the administration of Dr. Robin Hasecky, as president of the YCHS, the Old Great Northern Railway Depot which was originally built in 1892-93 and located at 2nd & Capital streets, was moved to the museum complex in 1978. Elliot Muxfelt is the Station Master in charge of the Depot. During the annual Railroad Days celebration held on Sunday August 7, 1983, a retired Burlington Northern Railroad caboose was officially presented to the Museum.

by Don Binder

Farm Scene Near Yankton, SD.

Red Owls Family
railroad Days celebration held an Oct 7, 1983, a retired Burlington Railroad caboose was officially to the Museum.

by Don Binder

NATIVE AMERICANS,
EARLY BLACK SETTLERS

Red Owl's Family 2½ mile south of town
FRENCH INDIAN ROOTS

There have been Indians living in what is now Yankton County for at least 10,000 years. Although intertribal French Canadian fur traders cautiously passed this way in the 1700s, and before white settlement of the county did not occur until after the 1858 Treaty with the Dakota (Yankton) Dakota. When the treaty was ratified in 1859, some fur traders associated with the tribe chose to remain nearby in order to retain family ties already established. Some stayed on mainly to enjoy the yearly annuity distribution and eventual land allotments guaranteed by the treaty.

The large French trade families based in St. Louis, Missouri, such as Chouteau and their first cousins, the Papin, lost valuable government trading licenses during the Civil War, when they openly professed loyalty to the Confederacy. When the war ended, trade families split up, some investing in eastern farmland, while others chose to remain near the river they loved, the muddy Missouri.

Of the more than fifty fur traders in the Papin family, Pierre Millicourt Papin, born 1765, was the most widely known. He was the American Fur Company (later Pierre Chouteau Jr. and Co.) Agent to the Osage until his death in 1849. His brother, Pierre Didier Papin traded with most Missouri tribes and was at one time a partner with Honoré Picotte in the trading firm of P.D. Papin and Co. Francis Parkman wrote of Pierre Didier in his book The Oregon Trail, while Papin was head trader at Fort Laramie.

Another trader, Amadee Theodore Papin, born December 4, 1843 left the fur trade to become a steamboat pilot and captain. Amede probably worked for several steamboat companies on the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers. For at least ten years (1871-1883) he was a pilot for the notorious politician and frontier lawyer, Dr. Walter A. Burlage. Burlage bought and bribed his way into Dakota Territorial politics using money he swindled while an agent for the Yankton Sioux from 1861 to 1865. The wily doctor owned a small fleet of steamboats with headquarters at Yankton, Dakota Territory. Among the steamboats piloted for Burlage by Amadee Papin were the Gen'l Terry and the Carroll, both destined for watery graves in the years to come.

Amadee married Ella Gillespie and they raised two children in Yankton, Leocade and Claude Lorraine Theodore (born 1877). Many other Papin relatives married Indian women and joined tribes now known as the Rosebud, Oglala, and Cheyenne River Sioux, as well as the Kansas, Omaha, Ponca, Cheyenne, and Osage. One of Amadee’s cousins, Hubert, married Wahpe (Leaf), the daughter of Fire Thunder, a sub-chief under Red Cloud who led the Fetterman Massacre.

Most of the Papin family enjoyed some freedom of movement between Indian country and St. Louis, Missouri, where they were introduced at an early age to the histrionic society of traveling traders, and interpreters.

After the Great Flood of 1881 swept the Burleigh steamboat line to disaster, Amadee, and his family stayed on at Yankton, Vermillion, and Yankton Agency at Greenwood. Amede’s son, Claude Lorraine Theodore, Lorraine, and his family stayed on at Yankton, Vermilion, and Yankton Agency at Greenwood. Amede’s son, Claude Lorraine Theodore, lived in Yankton until his twenty-fifth year. In 1901, he announced an ad in a Denver newspaper. The listing was for a leading man in a touring theatrical company. The company was owned by the French American actress, singer, and concert pianist, Camilla Martin. At the height of her career, Camilla listed among her many admirers, the Secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department, Samuel M. Galt.

Claude Lorraine was hired as Camilla’s leading man and they toured the country, stopping only to get married and later, in New York City to have their only child, Frenze Lorraine Papin (born July 3, 1903).

A portion of Lorraine’s childhood was spent in St. Louis Missouri. When she was twelve years old, Lorraine remembers living on Delmar Blvd. in St. Louis. “One day my father took me for a walk. We came to a street sign that read Papin Street. He told me that the street had been named after our family. He also told me not to mispronounce our name. It is pronounced PAW PAN, with the last N silent, as if holding the nose.”

Today Frenze Lorraine (known to her grandchildren as Mimi) is eighty-three years old. She has participated in the family rendezvous of her Rosebud relations on the Kecapahaya River and logs thousands of miles annually visiting her many friends and relations.

Frenze Lorraine is the grandmother of Renee Sassen-Flood, author and social worker for the South Dakota Department of Social Services, Office of Adult Services and Aging. Ms. Flood is the co-author of Remember Your Relatives, Yankton Indians 1851-1950, Volumes One and Two, and Lessons From Chouteau Creek: Yankton Memories of Dakota Territorial Intrigue. Among the awards she has received is the 1982 Karl Mundt Distinguished Historical Writing Award. As a journalist, Ms. Flood has worked and published in Europe and Central America. She lives in Yankton with her youngest son, Shane, a Yankton Dakotan. Her eldest son, Dominique, (Tony) attends the University of California at Riverside, where he is studying for a career in medicine. Ms. Flood’s parents, Thomas Edward and Barbara Sassen, are retired and live in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. She has one brother, Robert, who lives in New Mexico Fish and Game Department.

by Renee Sassen-Flood

THE FUR TRADE CONNECTION

Another familiar name in the history of southeastern South Dakota encourages a French-Canadian fur trader Theophile. Theophile was born August at L’Assomption Parish near I Canada. His father, Madrid Brugier, French, and a captain in the English Elisabeth Keep. Theophile’s mother was English. The family home was on Lot Joliet, Canada.

Capt. Brugier educated his son that he would become a lawyer. Theophile was working as a clerk in a store planned to marry a Frenchwoman, Johns, New Brunswick. But a chaotic French took the life of the would-be bride twenty-one-year-old T heartbroken.

With her last letter in his pocket while left Canada to seek his fortune fur trade of the Upper Missouri. His reputation gained him a position American Fur Company and he monopolized trade at Ft Vermillion.

Theophile married the daughter Eagle, an adopted member of the Sioux Tribe. His wives were Fires T Woman (Blazing Star) and Dawn. Father-in-law was beloved among his people and popular with the Americans became loyal during the War of 1812. Eagle’s wife was an Isanti Sioux named Masa Kirwin or Laughing Woman.

Theophile and Blazing Star had three children. Charles, born about 1814, education in St. Louis and Ann who was later a Civil War officer. He was my father, who was in the South Dakota. Ann was killed in a fight with a classmate over a War issue. Rose, married (1) Langloupers and (2) Victor Dupuis. I at Salix, Iowa, and Kerman, California was married to the son of August T as a fur trader. Selena, said to be educated of the girls, married (1) Mt and (2) Mr. Hardy. She lived in St. New York Eugene Andrew married from Chicago, Rock and lived there family. Baptized in infancy aro...
Southeastern South Dakota is that of French-Canadian fur trader Théophile Bru- guier. Théophile was born August 21, 1813, at L'Assomption Parish near Montreal, Canada. His father, Madrid Bruguier, was French, and a captain in the English Army. Elisabeth Keep, Théophile’s mother, was English. The family home was located near Joliet, Canada.

Capt. Bruguier educated his son in hopes that he would become a lawyer. Theophile was working as a clerk in a store when he planned to marry a Frenchwoman in St. Johns, New Brunswick. But a cholera epi- demic took the life of the would-be bride, leaving twenty-one-year-old Théophile heartbroken.

With her last letter in his pocket, Théo- phile left Canada to seek his fortune in the fur trade of the Upper Missouri. His trading reputation gained him a position with the American Fur Company and he held a monopoly in trade at St. Vermillion, near present-day Burbank, South Dakota.

Bruguier married the two daughters of War Eagle, an adopted member of the Yankton Sioux Tribe. His wives were Fire The Cloud Woman (Blazing Star) and Dawn. His new father-in-law was beloved among his relatives and popular with the Americans because he remained loyal during the War of 1812. War Eagle’s wife was an Isanti Sioux woman named Mana Kirawin or Laughs At Iron Woman.

Théophile and Blazing Star had seven children. Charles, born about 1841, received an education in St. Louis and Ann Arbor and was later a Civil War officer. He was killed at Rapid City, South Dakota. And he was killed in a fight with a classmate over Civil War issues. Rose Ann married (1) Odin Louis Lemperusse and (2) Victor Dubeau. She lived at Salix, Iowa, and Kerman, California. Mary married to the son of August Treverer, a fur trader. Celena, said to be the best educated of the girls, married Mr. Foster, and (2) Mr. Hardy. She lived in St. Louis and New York. Eugene Andrew married a woman from Standing Rock and lived there with his family. Baptiste died in infancy around 1845. Dawn was the mother of six more Bruguier children. Julia, born November 15, 1844, at Ft. Vermillion, attended school in Onawa, Iowa, before moving with the tribe to Green- wood in 1859. She married (1) George Northrup, (2) Cassius Conger about 1866. Josephine, born in 1849, was orphaned at Yank- ton Creek under questionable circum- stances in August of 1869. John was the most highly educated of the Bruguier boys. He was a linguist and scout for General Milas and later Colonel A. H. B. All. He was likely murdered in western South Dakota in 1899. Samuel, born in Sioux City, Iowa in 1854, was a scout and interpreter. He lived in McLa- glin, South Dakota and died at Standing Rock. William was a missionary among the Crow Indians. Victoria grew to womanhood but little is known of her.

Bruguier’s wives were described as faithful, hospitable and loving mothers to their many children. After Bruguier’s death caused by consumption around 1857-60, the chil- dren may have lived with the Yankton Sioux tribe.

Theophile then married a French woman, Victoire Toumeul in St. Louis. She was born December 12, 1836, of Creole French de- scent. As a young girl she married a fur trader named Aldrich. After his death the widow married R履约el Brunett. He was shot and killed. About 1863 she married Bruguier. Her obituary says that she helped to raise his twelve children, the youngest being two years old. However, other sources say that she could not accept Bruguier’s half-breed children and they in turn felt uncomfortable with her. Although Bruguier and his French wife had no children of their own, they did adopt a Canadian boy named Louis Gilco.

Bruguier served as an Army wagon freight- er and Clerk of Courts for Wilson County, Iowa. He was an important negotiator in the 1858 Treaty with the Yankton Sioux. Near the end of his life he moved near Sandhill Lake and died there February 18, 1896. He was buried at Salix, but in 1920 his descend- ants moved his body to Sioux City.

Théophile Bruguier was a generous, ener- getic man who is remembered with fondness by his many descendants.

by Renee Flood

GRANDFATHERS OF THE YANKTON DAKOTA

n of Lorraine’s childhood was t. Louise Missouri. When she was 60, Lorraine remembers living Blvd. in St. Louis. “One day my ma for a walk. We came to a street and Papin Street. He told me that he had been named after our family. He said to me to mispronounce our pronounced פAW פAN, with the st, as if holding the nose.”

78esey Lorraine (known to her ren Mimi) is eighty-three years has participated in the family of her Rosebud relatives on the River and logs thousands of miles visiting her many friends and

Lorraine is the grandmother of n (author) and author area Social the Department of ic, Office of Adult Services and Flood is the co-author of Remem- berables, Yankton images 1871-1872 One and Two, and Lessones steau Creek: Yankton Memories Tertiary Territorial. Among the e has received is the 1985 Carl ignized Historical Writing a journalist. Ms. Flood has worked ed in Europe and Central Amer- ica in Yankton with her youngest ·, a Yankton Dakotan. Her eldest eldest (Tony) attends the Univer- sity of Iowa at River, where he is s a career in medicine. Ms. Flood’s homes Edward and Barbara San- tered and live in Pagoa Springs. She has one brother, Thomas he is a writer and chief for the Fish and Game Department.

by Renee Sansom-Flood

FUR TRADE ONNECTION

With permission from Marty Indian School owned and operated by the Yankton Sioux Tribe at Marty, South Dakota, the following excerpts from their recently pub- lished textbook, Remember Your Relations, Yankton Images 1851-1904, by Renee Sansom-Flood and Shirley A. Borne, monkey and historical events which shaped their lives. The biographies are based on the oral traditions of the tribe, which exist today as living literature. This section will highlight members of the tribe who contributed to the history of Dakota Territory. Descendants of these men contin- ue to provide community leadership today.

War Eagle, also known as Little Eagle, was probably born in Wisconsin about 1785. He is said to have been either a Milewakatonk or Isanti Dakota. His wife, Masakirawin (Laughs At Iron Woman), was an Isanti. Through marriage, both were closely related to Colonel Robert Dickson, a wealthy English trader despised by Americans.

Disregarding the rules governing the fur trade, War Eagle bought pelts directly to Indians in order to influence them against Americans. He was in charge of British interests in Dakota during the War of 1812, and he was known to back Dakotas against their enemises.

Dickson was supported by Little Crow, leader of the Milewakatonk, who lived near the present site of St. Paul, Minnesota. It is not known if War Eagle took sides in the War, but it is said he remained loyal to the Americans.

In order to prevent bloodshed, he removed his hand from the tribe. He led them to the Missouri River territory of the Yankton Dakota near what is now Sioux City, Iowa. War Eagle was probably aware that Yankton and their Teton cousins were strong suppor- ters of Americans during the War of 1812.

Through the years, War Eagle and his people developed a number of Yankton Dakota. The Yankton leader was finally accepted by special ceremony into the tribe. He and his children were thereafter regarded as Yankton Dakota. When the Blackhawk leader Little Diah died, War Eagle was selected to replace him.

While living near Fort Vermillion in the 1850's, War Eagle's tribe was visited by a French Canadian fur trader named Théophile Bruguier. Indians found Bruguier a honest man, and he soon became known for his great physical power and courage. The trader married Dawn (Amour) and Blazing Star (Fire The Cloud Woman), two daugh- ters of War Eagle. Another daughter, Lies Down All A-Jingle, became the wife of Bruguier's partner, Henry Ayotte.

The fact that War Eagle was related to Dickson and Bruguier added to his influence among Indians and whites. His band enjoyed necessary brought by these traders includ- ing guns, ammunition, cloth, kettles, vegeta- ble seeds, and blacksmith materials. In

Many believe this to be a photograph of War Eagle. It is probably his son, Longflog.
addition, traders often loaned traps and cared for the sick and elderly. Their forts and lodges were warm and well supplied during the harsh winters on the Northwest plains.

In 1837, War Eagle went to Washington where many leaders of different Indian nations met to negotiate treaties. They were lavishly entertained in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. Several important treaties were signed at this time, including one on October 21, 1837, between Yankton and the United States. War Eagle’s name does not appear among the signers. He did, however, receive a three-inch bronze medal from President Martin Van Buren. The medal was in possession of War Eagle’s granddaughter, Julia Bruguier Conger, in 1932.

In later years, War Eagle lived with his son-in-law, Theophile Bruguier. He became disappointed with white people after he recognized their powerful desire to lay claim to the land. Though Bruguier treated him well, War Eagle sometimes expressed a wish to move out on his own.

In advance ages, he picked out his own final resting place on a beautiful bluff overlooking the Missouri River. According to his wishes, he was buried in a sitting position facing the river he loved. His funeral occurred in the fall of 1861, and the tribe gathered to mourn his passing.

In 1975, one hundred and twenty-four years after his death, a large statue was erected on the same bluff. It is now a focal point overlooking the Missouri at Sioux City, Iowa. The statue honors War Eagle’s friendship toward all men and his firm loyalty to America.

War Eagle’s Children:

1. Iron Shaker (or Mauznanawin). She lived to be about eighty years of age, leaving three children, two boys and one girl.

2. Maries She-Woman or Blazing Star (Marilysa Kaidewin). She married Theophile Bruguier and had eight children.

3. Red Gun (or Tamasa Kanduta). He died at Yankton, South Dakota in 1901, leaving no children.

4. Lisa Down All A-jingle (or Sinyankid Wankwein). She married Harry Yanka.

5. Dawn (or Anpsa). She married Theophile Bruguier and had nine children. Dawn died in 1890.

6. Peter Longfoot (or Wakanaey). He was a Yankton Scout. He said he resembled his father. Peter died in 1816, leaving one son, Andrew War Eagle.

7. Doubleroweh (or Ikawa Nupna). He was the grandfather of Maggie Jandreau (who died in 1886).

Relations: Eva Nichols; Thornton; Cooks; McBriddles; Bruguiers; Ethel Wood; and many others.

by Renee Flood

CHARLES F. PICOTTE

(Itekeca)

Charles Francois Picotte’s Indian name was Itekeca, or “Shaggy Face.” He was the son of House Picotte, a wealthy French trader, and Eagle Woman, a close relative of Yankton Itecaan, Struck By The Ree. Picotte was born on August 16, 1830, at Fort Tecumseh, close to the mouth of the Teton or Bad River. As a child, he lived with his Yankton relatives. When he grew old enough for school, his father took him to St. Louis, Missouri, to be educated in the white man’s way. When “Charlie” (as he was then called) finished school, he went to live with his mother’s people.

When he returned an educated man, Charlie was a respected and trusted man in the tribe. He was often consulted by either the white or the Indian way of life. He enjoyed some prestige in Indian society because he was related to Struck B Picotte realized the Itecaan family was a good interpreter, but in order to well he had to learn the language and cultural values of his people.

Within his tribe, Charlie was a respected interpreter. During mediations of Lakota, he met J.B.S. Todd (a land speculator and fur trader Randall. John Todd was a First President of Abraham Lincoln’s w. In 1837 Todd asked Picotte to organize a Yankton Treaty Delegation. Although Yankton men who we to take part were those who were gemacht for the tribe, the mediational lea had been left out. It is also a part of the tribal lore that Picotte’s fondness for liquor and money may have affected his opinions when he agreed to help Todd plan t of 1868. During Treaty negotiations, he reportedly told Yankton “they drank the water, they might have to bought beer or wine 49

STRIKED BY THE REE

(Padanapiapi)

History tells us that when Lewis and Clark
CHARLES PICOTTE

(itekeca)

a Francisco Picotte's Indian name was, or "Shaggy Face." He was the cousin of Kittit, a wealthy French for-
ed Eagle Woman, a close relative of Itekeca, Struck By The Bee.

was born August 30, 1830, at Fort h, close to the mouth of the Teton River, as a child, he lived with his rela-
tives. When he grew old enough, his father took him to St. Louis, to be educated in the white man's en-
"Charlie" (as he was then called) began to look after his people.

he returned an educated man, and it is difficult to identify fully with a white or the Indian way of life. He some prestige in Indian society

because he was related to Struck By The Bee. Picotte realized the Ihanktonwan needed a good interpreter, but in order to interpret well he had to relax the language and cultural values of his people.

Within five years, Charlie was a government interpreter. During mediations with the Lakota, he met J.B.S. Todd (Todd County), a land speculator and fur trader from Fort Randall. John Todd was a first cousin of President Abraham Lincoln's wife, Mary Todd. In 1857, Todd asked Picotte to help organize a Yankton Treaty Delegation.

Although Yankton men who were invited to take part were those who generally spoke for the tribe, more traditional leaders may have been left out. It is also a part of Yankton tribal lore that foot-boys, who were known for whiskey and money and may have affected his judgment when he agreed to help Todd plan the Treaty of 1855. During Treaty negotiations in Wash-
nington, he reportedly told Yanktons that if they drink the water, they might die. He is said to have brought barrels of whiskey along for them to drink, instead.

And as the reservation turned from the east, they were met with angry criticism from those tribal members who thought the land should not have been sold. Blame fell on Picotte because he had advised Struck to agree to the terms of the Treaty. Some of the Interpreter's threatening tactics were se-
verely criticized, such as the reported threat he made to Smutty Bear when the Headman would not sign the Treaty. It was also unclear why Picotte did not have the leaders not actually present at the signing. (This includes Medicine Man, That Stands, Little White Swan, and Handmannas-young-
man or Pretty Boy).

The treaty turned into an armed confrontation between Cagu (Struck By The Bee's Band) and Ignum (a Band led by Smutty Bear and his brother, Black Bear). Struck survived the heated incident, but not before being wounded and publicly humiliated.

After this important political split in the tribe, Picotte found himself unpopular on the Reservation. In 1861, he moved to the city of Yankton, over sixty miles from the Yankton Agency at Greatwood. He took possession of sixty and forty acres of land given to him for services as interpreter during Treaty proceedings. He farmed the land in the town, including all of what was to become the Yankton College grounds. In fact, he owned so much property, Yanktonians laughed at him. They spoke of the river front village of Yankton as Picotte's farm.

Because of his large land holdings, personal appeal, and interpreting skills, Picotte was respected by the non-Indians in Yankton. He was active in community affairs and served as Second Floor, a member of the first Dakota House of Representatives. He later built the first capital building in Dakota Territory and rented it to the government.

In 1877, when Picotte was forty-seven years old, he took two wives, one of which was his daughter. He took their children back to the Reservation. He made himself useful once again as interpr-
er, but he kept out of the way of those tribal members who remembered him in the Treaty of 1855.

Rebecca stayed at Greenwood for the rest of his life. He was a generous grandfather, giving to those of his relations and friends who were most in need. As a youth, the handsomely "Charlie" is remembered as a show-off who lit cigars with rolled up twenty dollar bills. But by the time he grew old, he had thrown away everything he owned. He was still politically active in tribal affairs when he died on March 12, 1896.

References: Picottes; and many others.

by Renee Flood

SMUTTY BEAR

Smutty Bear is an inaccurate translation of Mato Sahi Ceya, which has been said to mean He Paints Himself Dark Like a Bear. Though the name is interpretation, the translation Smutty Bear has withstood the test of time.

Within the Ignum (Cati) Band of the Yank-
ton Nation, the man who painted himself was known as a skilled hunter. Before a hunt, people watched him as he expertly camoufl-
ged himself using natural earth colors, branches, animal skins, and leaves. When finished, he looked like a rock, a rock, or a bear, but not a man. Because of his natural talent for disguise, Smutty Bear rarely came home from a hunt empty-handed. Even during harsh winters, the Ignum Band had meat.

Smutty Bear learned the ways of the hunt from his older brother, Black Bear. Those men were close brothers and spent much time together. The older Black Bear owned many fine horses, and was a hunter. Because he had access to good horses, Smutty Bear was able to travel long distances frequently, his hunting skills could account for his presence at Fort Lookout when he signed the Treaty of 1825. He was also present at Prairie du Chien (Wisconsin) in July 1830, and at the Fort Laramie Treaty (Wyoming) in 1861. After having signed at least three Treaties, Smutty Bear had experi-
ence dealing with government representa-

By coincidence, Black Bear was away (in Utah) when Smutty Bear went to Wash-
ington with the Yankton Treaty Delegation in 1856. Had Black Bear been present, perhaps the Treaty would have taken a different course.

Many stories have been handed down that depict the intricacies of the relationships between two other Headmen at the hands of Treaty negotiators in Washington. On one occasion, the Delegation was reportedly taken on an ocean cruise aboard a large boat. When far out at sea they saw fish swimming close to the surface, Smutty Bear was told that he would be food for the fish if he continued to hold out against the Treaty. After hearing this threat he replied, "I'm an old man, anyway, I will probably die. When I die my spirit will return to my people. I will be with them forever." After four months of harassment, the man who held out the longest, Mato Sahi Ceya, finally put his mark to the treaty, to which all, he cared about was going home.

When the Yankton Delegation returned from Washington, there was an immediate reaction from Black Bear. He had been told how the younger brother had betrayed him. Black Bear joined with other Band leaders to protest the terms of the Treaty. Struck By The Bee and interpreter, Charles F. Picotte, came under heavy criti-
icism. A confrontation took place in which.

Struck was denounced as a traitor by several Headmen. A white trader from Yankton, William P. Lyman, was present to help instigate the fight. Shots were fired at Struck and he was nicked on his heel by a bullet. Women mocked him and jabbed at him with sticks. But with his powerful speaking skills, Struck was able to persuade the angry people to wait and see how well they would be treated under the Treaty. It is said that a cavalry troop from Fort Randall was there to protect him.

At time went by, Mato Sahi Ceya felt more and more confined by Reservation boundar-
ies and regulations. He missed the long trips he and his brother made for horses. Now, even his favorite hunting areas along the James River Valley were forbidden to him. Although he honored all terms of the Treaty he had signed, he never forgave Struck or Charles Picotte for the loss of over eight million acres of land.

In the years following the Treaty, Smutty Bear became the respected symbol of resis-
tance to his tribe and to the white citizens of Dakota Territory. He continued to take part in important tribal events and was often the center of attention. Members of the Ignum Band and white Agency officials all commen-
ted on the whereabouts of Smutty Bear. Even the deep tones of his voice is recalled, as well as the remembrance of his preference for the color yellow in ceremonial clothing and face paint. Stories within his own family reveal he was an energetic man who was somewhat mischievous. More often, however, the Ignum Headman is remembered as a strong, gentle interpreter who lived during a difficult era, Dakota Treaty History.

When the old warrior was buried, the white man's woman prepared his body. It was secret known only to a few descendents, many of whom are still full-bloods. References: Strickers

by Renee Flood

JOHN BRUGUIER

(Big Leggings)

John Bruguiere was the son of French Canadian fur trader, Thoper Bruguiere. His mother was the daughter of a French-speaking War Eagle. Thoper also was the husband of Dawn's sister, Fires The Cloud Woman, or Blazing Star. The sisters had thirteen chil-
dren, seven of whom were sons.

John wanted his children to learn the ways of the white man was well as those of the Indian. He sent his sons to be educated at the College of Christian Brothers in St. Louis, Missouri. Of the seven boys, John went to school in 1865.

In his early twenties, John served as U.S. Army Scout and Interpreter for General Nelson A. Miles. He distinguished himself by earning one citation after another for brav-
cy. When the Indians might have remained with the Army he had not been involved in a fight at Grand River Agency in 1874. His brother, Bill, was jumped by another Agency employ-
ee, William McGee. In his brother's defense, John hit McGee over the head with a club.

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By morning, McGee was dead and Bill Brugier was charged in connection with the killing. Even though John had disappeared, a charge of manslaughter was filed against him. A U.S. Marshall went out after the Interpreter, but lost his trail. Brugier sought refuge where he knew no white man would follow — in the camp of Sitting Bull.

He boldly rode into the Hunkpapa encampment wearing white man’s clothing. Angry warriors threatened the intruder, but they let him through. Sitting Bull may have recognized the grandson of War Eagle. He reportedly said to him, “Well, if you are going to kill this man, kill him; and if you are not, give him a drink of water, something to eat, and a pipe of peace to smoke.” John was spared.

Eventually, Brugier became one of Sitting Bull’s trusted advisors. “Big Leggings”, as he was called, was known for his “brave runs” – brazen dashes directly under enemy fire. But his personal acquaintance with Generals such as George Armstrong Custer proved far more important. He remained close to the Hunkpapas until after the Battle of the Little Bighorn. (Brugier’s whereabouts in the historic battle have not been fully documented by Custer historians.) Some years earlier, John may have been present during Custer’s show of force on the peaceful Yankton Reservation. As the arrogant General led the Seventh Cavalry through Greenwood, he ordered his men to shoot every dog in sight. Bullets shot past frightened women and children as they attempted to flee toward the hills.

Despite his hard feelings toward Custer, Brugier rode into Fort Peck, Montana, with evidence of his good faith. He turned over a U.S. Army paycheck taken from a dead soldier on the Custer battlefield. When he learned of the Interpreter’s sudden appearance with the check, General Miles sent for Brugier. John met with Miles and no doubt the killing of McGee was discussed. Although the General knew the fearless Yankton was a hunted fugitive, he offered the scent his old job back.

On September 27, 1879, John was finally arrested for manslaughter in the McGee case. General Miles appeared as a character witness at the Bismarck trial. His testimony was a tribute to Brugier’s intelligence, which was of great value in several critical instances. Also appearing as character witness was the unscrupulous land speculator and lawyer, Dr. Walter A. Burlage. The doctor successfully entered into court record a petition signed in John’s behalf by many leading citizens of Miles City, Montana. The jury deliberated half an hour before delivering the final verdict of not guilty. John was so convincing, spectators took toapplause. (Later, John’s Yankton land holdings went to Burlage as a possible fee for legal counsel.)

John continued to perform valuable interpreting services for many years. He was called upon at various important events such as the meetings between General Miles and Indian leaders after the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890.

In later years, Brugier moved to a reservation near Poplar, Montana. On June 13, 1896, the well-known Interpreter was himself murdered on a lonely, deserted road by a man wielding a wagon wrench.

It is difficult to determine the impact John Brugier’s alliances had on the course of frontier history.

Relations: Brugiavers.

by Renee Flood

WHITE MEDICINE COW THAT STANDS

(Pte Wakan Najin)

White Medicine Cow That Stands, or Medicine Woman Wakan Najin, or Wakan Wiyako, was the wife of George Wakan Najin. She was the first Yankton woman to be identified as a medicine woman. Her skill at healing was recognized by the Yankton people, who came to her for treatment of illnesses.

"Jumping", as his relatives called him, is remembered as a man of conscience. He and his son, David, were men who used plants to cure the sick. In the old days, most Yankton families possessed some knowledge of the use of medicinal plants to cause changes in the human body. The medicine that they used was often obtained from the earth or from plants found in the wild. The medicine did not taste good, but it worked!

Jumping Thunder Sr. was a warrior and elected Headman whose name appears on the 1888 Treaty. The tall Ihanktowanl left a legacy of tradition among his relatives. Unfortunately, his knowledge of plants did not include cures for white man’s diseases. He died of smallpox in 1903.

Relations: Mrs. Edward Zepher Sr. (Melissa Garfield), and Joe Rockboy.

by Renee Flood

JUMPING THUNDER

(T47)

(PSCHA WAKIYA)

Jumping Thunder, Yankton Dakota. C. 1867.

White Medicine Cow That Stands or Medicine Woman Wakan Wiyako. C. 1867.

by Renee Flood

LLEWELLYN EDNA SELWYN

Llewellyn Edward Selwyn was born 28, 1903 at Greenwood on the Yankton Reservation. His mother was Mary and his father was tribal leader, Wi Selwyn.

His grandfather was the eminent Medicine Cow That Stands, an in-law to the Yankton. Medicine Cow was an outspoken, intelligent man who faced injustices with courage and grace.

by Renee Flood

LEWellyn An EdNA selwyn
assessed some knowledge of the usual plants to cause changes in the dyke.

came to the Jumping Thunder dwaring problems, and parents their children if they were not normally. On such occasion a lid was ill. Her mother brought her pa David Jumping Thunder who instilled a dose of a specially boiled mixture. The medicine was so ineffective that it did not taste good, but it

q Thunder Sr. was a warrior and medicine man whose name appears on the treaty. The tall Hunkpawowtan (a tradition among his relatives) likely, his knowledge of plants did not cure for white men's diseases. He rallied in 1901.

Mrs. Edward Zephair Sr. (Mel-Ilid), and Joe Rockboy.

by Renee Flood

HITE MEDICINE

V THAT STANDS

(Tpe Wakan Najin)

Medicine Cow That Stands, or Cow, was Headman of the Warthum-pumpkin-Rind Earring, the largest the Yankton Nation. They were this name because they wore jewelry on pumpkin seeds and rings. In seven bands of Yankton dressed a fertilely, and each recognized the other by certain articles of

ine Cow was one of the most outspo-

ken Yankton Headmen in the history of the tribe. He was among the respected council of elders who were chosen to make important decisions for the Hunkpawowtan. However, when the Treaty of 1858 was signed, Medicine Cow's signature was made by proxy because he was not present for this important event. We do not know if his signature was deliberately left out of the Treaty Delegation. He might have been in Washington during the negotiations, but for some reason was unable to appear at the signing of the Treaty. Although Medicine Cow may not have participated in Treaty mediations in 1858, he was by no means a silent spectator during the 1862 Minnesota Sioux War. He openly criticized Government officials for creating the intolerable conditions that led to the war in which hundreds of non-Indians were killed and more than 30,000 driven from their homes.

"You know the cause of the murders in Minnesota, if you do not I do, the agencies were the cause. Our agents never give us what our grandfather (President) sends. I think that when the white man makes an agreement with each other they do as they agree with each other. If the whites did as they agree with the Indians, there would not be so much difficulty."

Congressional Globe 1866

From 1861 to 1865, Dr. Walter A. Burleigh was the United States Agent for the Yankton Sioux. Medicine Cow passed away in 1866, and Dr. Burleigh continued the medicine man's work.

Edna Young Selwyn was born December 3, 1906. She is a descendant of War Eagle. Her mother was Mary Louise Mato and her father was Take Your Coat Away. Edna went to school at Flandreau, St. Francis and San炮 Normal School. She helped found Brainerd Mission School southwest of Hot Springs, South Dakota. She is a member of the Mary-Martha Guild of Christ Church Episcopal, Yankton.

by Renee Flood

ALBERT AND ELIZABETH MILK

Albert and Elizabeth Milk have lived in Yankton, South Dakota since 1962. They moved to Yankton from Lake Andes, South Dakota, where Albert was employed in the construction of the Fort Randall Dam. Albert was born on the Rosebud Reservation on January 22, 1902. He is the grandson of Chief Red Cloud and the grandson of Chief Milk of Milk's Camp.

Elizabeth (Kiyanuk or Makes Room) Milk was born August 9, 1904 at Lake Andes, South Dakota. She is the daughter of Joseph and Ada (Good Horse) Kiyanuk and the granddaughter of Makes Room, a prominent member of the White Swan band of Yankton Sioux.

Albert Milk attended Milk's Camp Day School and Genes Indian School. He spent an enjoyable childhood on the east end of the Rosebud Reservation. Albert remembers skating on the creek and watching the bellowing smoke of huge prairie fires as they swept across the plains. He took part in many tribal celebrations and gave away, traveling to these events on horseback or by wagon. Watching children of today ride their bikes to school reminds him of the years he rode to school on horseback along with fifteen or twenty classmates.

Albert met his future wife at a Lake Andes fishing celebration and they were married May 9, 1922, afterwards returning to Milk's Camp about five miles south west of St. Charles, South Dakota.

There were few jobs on the reservation so Albert helped his father on the farm family. He supplemented his income by playing saxophone with an orchestra which traveled all over South Dakota and Nebraska. In 1933, dance tickets were a quarter, and on Friday or Saturday night he could earn as much as $6.00 playing saxophone. Milk was too young to enter the service during World War II, and too old for active duty during World War II. He witnessed the hardships caused by both wars and the great depression of the 1930's when Indian farmers, like their white neighbors, were devastated by sand storms and grasshoppers. Indian families survived these lean years on the reservation because they had chickens, cows, pigs and gardens.

Albert attended church activities and ball games but there was no TV or radio. Medical care came from an itinerant physician who traveled by team and bugy long distances to meet an emergency.

During the 1940's the federal government began requiring those people with incomes over $500.00 a year to file income tax returns. He sought help from a local school teacher to fill out his form. The teacher made an effort to explain to Milk, asking him how he could possibly live on $600.00 a year. This conversation induced Milk to seek employment in construction off the reservation. It became a turning point in the future of his family.

Albert and Elizabeth had ten children with four dying in infancy. Their six children are Emery Gordon, Martha, Ada, Orville, Larry and Albert Jr. Albert Jr. is a graduate of the University of South Dakota. The Milks have

Llewellyn and Edna Selwyn.

Mr. Selwyn graduated from Santee Indian School and attended one year at Springfield and two years at the University of South Dakota.

He was elected to the Yankton Tribal Council at age 18, the youngest man ever to be elected to that position. He was an active tribal leader for years, representing his tribe in Washington, D.C. on many occasions.

Llewellyn Selwyn came of age in Yankton in 1940 and helped construct two wings of the State Hospital, Garvin Point Dam and Mount Marty College. He also served two years as night manager of a poultry business in Mitchell, South Dakota.

Mr. Selwyn married Edna Young in 1936. They had two children, Mildred and Angela, and five grandchildren.

Edna Young Selwyn was born December 3, 1906. She is a descendant of War Eagle. Her mother was Mary Louise Mato and her father was Take Your Coat Away. Edna went to school at Flandreau, St. Francis and Santee Normal School. She helped found Brainerd Mission School southwest of Hot Springs, South Dakota.

She is a member of the Mary-Martha Guild of Christ Church Episcopal, Yankton.

by Renee Flood

LLEWELLYN AND EDNA SELWYN

Llewellyn Edward Selwyn was born March 28, 1903 at Greenwood on the Yankton Sioux Reservation. His mother was Mary B. Cook and his father was tribal leader, William T. Selwyn.

His grandfather was the eminent White Medicine Cow That Stands, an important headman of the Yankton Sioux Tribe. Medicine Cow was an outspoken, intelligent leader during the early reservation years and was a signer of the 1858 treaty.

Llewellyn and Edna Selwyn.

Albert and Elizabeth Milk.

Albert attended Milk's Camp Day School and Genes Indian School. He spent an enjoyable childhood on the east end of the Rosebud Reservation. Albert remembers skating on the creek and watching the bellowing smoke of huge prairie fires as they swept across the plains. He took part in many tribal celebrations and gave away, traveling to these events on horseback or by wagon. Watching children of today ride their bikes to school reminds him of the years he rode to school on horseback along with fifteen or twenty classmates.

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Albert and Elizabeth had ten children with four dying in infancy. Their six children are Emery Gordon, Martha, Ada, Orville, Larry and Albert Jr. Albert Jr. is a graduate of the University of South Dakota. The Milks have
twenty grandchildren and nineteen great grandchildren.

Elizabeth has been a creative star quilter, midwife, and past president of the Mary-Marthra Circle of the Christ Church Episcopal.

Alvert was the green thumb custodian at the Yankton 4-H building for ten years and has been President of Dakota Hall for twenty-four years. He has been President of the Brothers of Christian Unity since 1988.

by Renee Flood

CHARLENE THORNTON STUHLMACHER

Charlene Thornton Stuhlmacher was born February 10, 1938 at Wagner, South Dakota. She is the daughter of Walter Thornton and the late Lelo Thornton.

When Charlene was a child she lived with her family at Greenwood on the Yankton Sioux Reservation. For twelve years when she was a boarding student at St. Paul's Mission, now known as Marty Indian School, graduating May 18, 1956.

After graduation Charlene went to Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana, where she studied pharmacology. She also took courses at Mount Mary College, Yankton Business College, the University of South Dakota, and Yankton College.

In 1960 she began working at the Human Services Center in Yankton as a psychiatric technician. From 1960 to 1962 she was employed at the Human Services Center participating in or teaching workshops covering a significant range of skills. She lectured on alcohol and drug abuse, Indian culture, Art and Health Care. During this time she also participated in many intertribal activities holding, among others, the position of secretary and pre-school director for Yankton Inter-Tribal Indian Council.

Throughout her career Charlene has consistently achieved excellence, winning such awards as the 1970 Outstanding Young Woman of America, 1973 Sertoma Service to Mankind award, and 1982 Outstanding Young Indian Woman of America. She was chosen to represent people on President Nixon's American Indian Week Committee in January 1973 and represented Indian people again at the World's Fair in Spokane, Washington, in 1974.

In 1980, Charlene became Health Resource Specialist for Wiconi, a project of the South Dakota United Indians Association. She remained in that position for three years. Since 1982 she has held the position of Yankton Public School Home Health Coordinator.

Charlene was a Board Member of the South Dakota United Indian Indian Health Board for four years, a member of Community Action People's Advisory Board, Catholic Indian Congress, Niobrara Episcopal Convocation, Mount Mary Faculty Affiliate, South Dakota Urban Health Board Member, President of Legion of Mary for ten years, a member of Governor Knip's Bicentennial Commission from 1975 to 1977, United Clothing Center Board, Psychiatric Technicians Association and the Lewis and Clark Mental Health Board.

Charlene married (1) Willard Zephier and (2) Robert Morton Stuhlmacher. They are the parents of Willard Jr. born February 9, 1962 and Faith, born July 30, 1960. The Stuhlmachers have three grandchildren, Darrick, Barry, and Nadine.

Charlene Stuhlmacher is a hard working woman whose many leadership qualities have made her an outstanding Yankton Community member and spokesperson for the Native American people of South Dakota.

by Renee Sansom Flood

CHERYL MARIE WHITE

The Arikara Indians were once the most powerful tribe on the Northern plains, and it is estimated that at one time their number exceeded ten thousand. Most people know little about the Arikara (also known as the Ree Indians). According to tribal tradition, the Arikara were once associated with the Skidi, one of the tribes of the Pawnee Confederacy. At some point in the wide valley of the Missouri, the Arikara and the Skidi parted. The latter settled in the region of the Loup River in Nebraska, while the Arikara continued to move north and east, building their villages among the bluffs of the Missouri. They did not follow the buffalo herds, as did many plains tribes, but depended mainly on agriculture for their food. In migration northward, the Arikara encountered members of the Sioux Nation moving westward, along with the Mandan, Pawnee and Hidatsa tribes. Wars ensued, interrupted by periods of peace and alliance.

In June of 1877, the Great Plague of smallpox brought disaster to the Missouri River tribes. As a result of warfare coupled with the effects of the smallpox epidemic, the Arikara tribe dwindled in numbers. There was a steady decline until the end of the first decade of the century. Since then, the population has increased. In 1915, there were an estimated 409 Arikaras. The 1970 census showed a tribal enrollment of 928 persons.

Cheryl Marie White, an Arikara, was born in Garrison, North Dakota, near the Fort Berthold Reservation on January 21, 1925. She is the daughter of Eugene and Marcelle (Deane) White Jr. Her brothers and sisters are Marty (Charging), Leone, Dolores, Danelle (Henry), Yvonne, Eugene III, and Bertha. Cheryl's great-grandparents were Eugene White Sr., his German wife Anna James, and William and Leona (Yellow Bird) Deane Jr. Her grandfather William (Sa-ka-as-ka-to-ri or Star Stands Above), was born July 11, 1897, and was the last remaining sub-chief of the Arikara tribe from 1913-1918. He was a noted Indian saddle bronc rider in many states. Star Stands Above started the first Hereford Ranch on the Fort Berthold Reservation and operated it until his retirement in 1960. He was a veteran of World War I. He died at the age of eighty-four years on January 23, 1980 and is buried at the Old Sickets Cemetery in rural White Shield, North Dakota.

Cheryl began working in Yankton in May of 1986, as a Laboratory Supervisor at Harlow's Photography. She is also attending school full-time at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. She is pursuing an accelerated Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. She attends the Fort Berthold Reservation after high school graduation in May, 1976, and attended college at Dickinson and Bismarck, North Dakota. In August of 1982, she moved to Rapid City, South Dakota and found employment in Insurance, Membership, and Retail Sales. She experienced work with a number of businesses and decided that she would like to start a business of her own. For this reason she chose to further her education.

Cheryl describes the differences between North and South Dakota: "I found very little prejudice against Indians in North Dakota. When I came to South Dakota it was a shock to experience racial discrimination. I realize that there will always be prejudice. As long as it doesn't directly interfere with my own life, I can deal with it. I will always be proud of my Arikara heritage.”

by Renee Flood

KATHY CHARGI HAWK

Adeline Catherine (Zephier) Hawk was born March 27, 1908, at the Health Service Hospital in Wagner, South Dakota. She is the daughter of Edward Felix Zephier Sr. and Mali Garfield. She is the sister of Margaret Zephier and Edward Peter Jr., Deacon of St. Paul's Catholic Church, Marty, South Dakota.

Catherine was married to Virgil (Hawk) Hawk of Bonesteel, South Dakota (1 Sioux). They are the parents of Diana August 5, 1930. Diane married Claude March 2, 1954. Another daughter Lynn was born September 8, 1970.

Catherine went to school at St. Vincent Indian Mission at Marty until the 8th. She has lived in Yankton since 1963, at which time she attended Steward School of Hair in Sioux Falls, graduating in 1959.

Catherine has fond memories of her childhood at the Yankton Reservation, raised in a one room house and helping with water and lighting her own home because there was no electricity. Her religion was the red-claw and Ca cherishes the memories of family visiting friends, playing dominos and the community generally having a happy, although sparsely poor home life. Everything was worked for and they appreciated any rations and gave their lives to Catholicism, which Catherine feels fulfill my life. There was no much general assistance in those days.

Once a year they got new clothes which remembers how proud they were to have their new clothes and new notions to take care of your clothes. Her clothing was made from old fashioned work hard and cleanliness. She oftens been poor, but soap and water and you can be clean.

Catherine is the great granddaughter of Antoinette Zephier, an Indian, born in 1857, South Dakota. She is very much the great great great granddaughter of 1832 Treaty between the United States and the Yankton.

The Catholic Church is the center of Catherine and her family. She is a member of St. Paul's Catholic Church, a member of the Holy Name Society, a member of the U.S. Catholic and an Extraordinary minister, helping to serve communion.

by Renee Flood

Seated in the front row L-R: Catherine Z Charging Hawk; Maisie; and Diane Kruse. Seated in the rear Row L-R: Loretta. Carman, and Tricia Lynn.
KATHY CHARGING HAWK

Adeline Catherine (Zephyr) Charging Hawk was born March 27, 1938, at the Public Health Service Hospital in Wagner, South Dakota. She is the daughter of the late Edward Felix Zephyr Sr. and Melissa Mae Garfield. She is the sister of Madeline Margaret Zephyr and Edward Peter Zephyr Jr., Deacon of St. Paul’s Catholic Church at Marty, South Dakota.

Catherine was married to Virgil Charging Hawk of Bonesteel, South Dakota (Rosebud Sioux). They are the parents of Diane, born August 5, 1960. Diane married Lester Kruze March 2, 1984. Another daughter, Tricia Lynn, was born September 3, 1970.

Catherine went to school at St. Paul’s Indian Mission at Marty until the 5th grade. She has lived in Yankton since 1963, although she attended Stewart School of Haisleying in Sioux Falls, graduating in 1969.

Catherine has fond memories of her childhood on the Yankton Reservation. She was raised in a one room house and remembers hauling water and lighting kerosene lamps because there was no electricity. Her family was an important part of her upbringing. She cherishes the memories of family outings to visit friends, playing dominos and cards and generally having a happy, although financially poor home life. Everything they had was worked for and they appreciated the runs and priests who taught them about Catholicism, which Catherine feels “helps fulfill a life.” There was no specific gender or age general assistance in those days.

Once a year they got new clothes. She remembers how proud they were to shine their new shoes and take care of the new clothing. Her mother instilled old time values of hard work and cleanliness. She often said, “you can be poor, but soap and water are cheap; you can be clean.”

Catherine is the great granddaughter of Antoinette Zephyr Recount, an interpreter for the 1858 Treaty between the United States Government and the Yankton Sioux. The Catholic Church is the center of life for Catherine and her family. She is a member of Catholic Daughters, Bible Study, Ultrasav, Chariasmitie and is an Extraordinary Minister, helping to serve communion.

by Renee Flood

LEONARD RUFUS BRUGUIER

Leonard Rufus Bruguiere, a descendent of War Eagle and fur trader Théophile Bru- guier, was born in Wagner, South Dakota on October 9, 1944.

Leonard lived near Greenwood on the Yankton Sioux Reservation until 1951 when he moved with his family to Yankton.

He showed an early interest in sports as a member of the Yankton Teeners Baseball Team, which won the South Dakota State Championship in 1959 and finished fourth at the National VFW Teeners Tournament at Hershey, Pennsylvania. He went on to earn varsity letters at Yankton High School in football and track. He was a founding member of the Yankton Sioux Men’s Fast Pitch Softball team.

While attending school, Leonard was an active member of Christ Episcopal Church, serving six years as acolyte. He was a member of Young Peoples Fellowship, Brotherhood of Christian Unity and the Native American Church.

Leonard served six years in the United States Marine Corps, twelve months of which were in Viet Nam.

In 1979, he married the former Phyllis Marie Chabin of Sisseton, South Dakota. They are the parents of Peter Helen, born February 6, 1979; Gabriel Rufus Smith, born August 17, 1981, and Jacob Willis, born January 18, 1991.

During the summer of 1983, Leonard graduated from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Policy and later that year became the recipient of the 1983 Sloan Fellows Scholarship.

In 1984 he graduated from the University of South Dakota with a B.A. Degree in History. He was the 1984 winner of the History Alumni Award for Excellence and the 1984 A.R. Gilfillan Award.

He is currently pursuing a Master of Public Administration Degree at USD. Leonard has been a Fellow in the Public Service Fellowship Program twice and serves as Research Associate for the American Indian Research Project and the South Dakota Oral History Center, also at USD.

Although academic pursuits are a major interest, Leonard still plays fastpitch softball. He is a member of “Nite City,” 1984 South Dakota Men’s softball champions.

He is a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace workers, Amateur Softball Association of America, and Viet Nam Veterans of America.

by Renee Flood

GROWING UP INDIAN IN YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

My mom, (Sybil Bruguiere) and family decided to move to Yankton where they went to work. She wanted me to go to school here. I’d come from where it was always quiet . . . not too many cars went by. I had to cope with the change from reservation life to town living. Everything was new to me. Even the Indians had different eating times. White people lived by a whistle. It would go off and you’d go to work. It told you when to eat lunch, when to quit work and when to go inside (curfew). That change from freedom to a structured life was hard. On the reservation, we had no electricity, no running water, and we heated and cooked with wood. We hauled water from the Missouri River in a wagon. Growing up in Yankton was a real change for me. It was like New York City and Yankton was a whole new world. I was going on seven when we left the Yankton reservation.

During my growing up years in Yankton, (1961-1963) the grandsons of chiefs were the leaders of the Indian Community. There were several, but the two I remember most were Alfred Kanazawia and Johnno (St. Rosalia), a grandson of Chief Milk and a relative of Red Cloud, and Llewellyn Seulyem, who is a grandson of White Medicine Cow That Stands (or Medicine Cow) of the Yankton nation. Other leading families were of the same industrial tradition. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley and Rebecca Jones Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Mercy Moore offered strong support in social and religious activities. Grandma Kate (Mrs. Albert Milk Sr.) and Grandma Edna (Mrs. Llewellyn Seulyem) are my relatives. The good thing about grandmas is that they will give you that little hug . . . that little reassurance that a boy needs. Then, they’d always ask me something about one of our relations. If one of them was sick or hurt or did something good, we’d talk about it. If they did something bad, we’d REALLY talk about it.

There were other people who helped me when I was growing up. Mr. and Mrs. George Kunkle were very interested in my school work and my career. Mr. Kunkle was the man who got me interested in the United States Constitution at a very early stage in my life. He was a lawyer. I suppose I wanted to be a lawyer, too. He gave me a book. . . I still have it. At certain times I’d go to his office on the corner of Sixth and Second Street . . . upstairs. We’d talk about Indians, travel, and just about everything else. He forced me to read. He’d always ask me things about books, and our interests really came together when I found out we both loved the works of James Fenimore Cooper. I read all of Cooper’s books and I remember we used to talk about him. Mr. Kunkle took time out of his life to talk to me . . . to counsel me. The Kunkles offered to let me go to college at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell.
South Dakota. We went up there and took a tour of the campus. I thought it over. I knew if I went, I'd probably grow up to be a guy like Mr. Kunkle... wear a suit and have a big, bushy mustache. I knew I didn't want to be a lawyer, it wasn't all that exciting. I was much more interested in being an athlete. He was a laid-back intellectual and I was more comfortable playing baseball. I kept in touch with the Kunkles all their lives.

I was in one of the first graduating classes of the new Yankton High School, class of 1962. While attending YHS, sports had a great influence on me. The coaches were the ones who taught me discipline. They taught me to stay in there – no matter the odds. Later, in the Vietnam War, it paid off. Coach Rich Greene helped me out while I was growing up. He was from the great Greeno coaching family from up north. There was also Don Baker and Don Allen. As a young boy, I used to hang around Crane Field and watch the "Big Bucks." I grew up wanting to be one and play for Coach Don Allen. He became a counselor before I realized my dream, but I played as a "Big Buck" under Coach Jack Richardson. Coach Don Baker did an excellent job to work hard to reach my potential.

We did that on the baseball fields in South Dakota. It was also during that period that I got to know Carl Youngworth. I always considered him a great man. He wasn't prejudiced and I could talk to him any time I needed to.

When I was a boy, I experienced prejudice many times. There was one family... every lifetime by, they'd call me "Chocolate Boy." I ignored them. I didn't let it bother me. I've been so fortunate. I've had a great deal of prejudice well. I knew who I was. I could walk on a railroad track for eight miles and never fall off. Huh, wangea. Sports was the equalizer of my life. It helped me overcome many of it. There were a couple of prejudiced and white people in Yankton. There were stories that Indians didn't go into. If you did, you never got out of it. If it was a restaurant, you'd never get served. There were places we just didn't go. We didn't comfort when people were rude to us.

In the summer, I lived on the river. We'd fish there... we'd play on the beaches; trapped and hauled along it, I could always go down and play baseball at Riverside Park. The river was a great place to be, especially when it was warm. Before they put in the dam, we'd hunt from Yankton to the old cement plant. That was a turn around spot; you could get a drink of water there. I remember that when they'd raise the bridge, it would make a lot of noise and whenever I heard it, I would run down and watch it. All the kids did that, it was a big thing. Mr. Louise Crow was the man who taught me to hunt, fish, trap, and learn safety rules with firearms.

I had a great time growing up in Yankton. We had the Carnegie Library and I took advantage of the opportunity to read everything I could get my hands on. I could go to the library and not be afraid to be the target of prejudice. I was accepted there. I knew I was a descendant of War Eagle and Theophil Bruguir. I'd look at those books that told about old Yankton and there were pictures of all the steamboats and stories about the fur trade. My family always reminded me that I came from the Frenchman, (Bruguir) who was from down around Sioux City.

The Yankton School System provided Indians with the tools to be successful. There were good people in the school system. I've always considered myself a member of the Yankton community and within that, a member of the Indian community. We had our own leaders then, and we still have the same ones today. We were here long before the 1858 Treaty, and we're still here.

by Leonard Bruguir

EARLY BLACK RESIDENTS

Yankton is a Sioux Indian word meaning "people living at the end of the camp." It was founded in 1861. Yankton was the first Capital of Dakota Territory, was a riverboat town, and many steamships traveled to Yankton. Thus Blacks traveled to Yankton and worked side by side with their white brothers and never suffered discrimination as they had other places. They began to stay here, then go back home, tell others about Yankton, and return.

Among the Blacks Americans living in Yankton in 1889 was the Chapman family who had moved here earlier in the decade. The best known member was Katie D. Chapman, who was born in Mound City, Illinois, on February 19, 1870. She was described in the Negro press as a young woman destined to become one of the "literary lights of the race." She graduated from Yankton High School; studied at State University, a Baptist College, in Louisville, Kentucky; and at Wilberforce University in Ohio. She published articles that appeared in the Christian Recorder, the magazine of the A.M.E. Church.

Yankton listed the following Blacks in 1889: James Parson, restaurant owner; A. Graves, brick mason; J.R. Shaw, city constable; C.T. Chapman, cook; Henry Robinson, barber shop; (It was in his shop that the A.M.E. Church was held weekly, in property owned by the List family of Yankton at 400 Broadway); Thomas Sturges, an excellent mechanic and father of Katie Chapman; Washington Stokes; Clark, a farmer; two widows, Mrs. Amy Davis and Mrs. Town; Fred Baker, assistant druggist in one of the largest drug stores; and Mrs. Proteus, Mrs. Johnson, and Mr. Whitton. LeRoy Kinney, a building custodian civil and Civil War Veteran, was also a Yankton resident. His

MRS. ISAAC BLAKEY JR. OF FOREST GREEN, MISSOURI.

Ex-slave married Isaac Blakey after the Civil War.

Mother of the Yankton Blakyes, Isaac, Henry and Spencer. Grandmother of Ted, Nate and Spencer Jr. of Yankton.

1933. A special program at the A.M.E. Church L.R.-Shorty, Ray, Ray, Ella, Mary Jesse, Geni, Winona, Delores and Phyllis.

Family story is given separately. Others that appeared from newspaper articling from South Carolina, Alabama were...
This information, and information on the individual families named, was gathered by Ted Blakley for the A.M.E. Church reunion held in Yankton in 1985 in honor of the oldest Black church – 81 years. Some of the information was taken from a letter written by Leonard Smith in 1972. Some is taken from Ellen Tobin’s writings over the years in the Yankton Press and Dakota. Some came from an article called “Kate D. Chapman Remembers: The Yankton Area’s People 1859” by Willard B. Gateswood, Jr.

by Ted Blakley

BLACK HISTORY

Blacks in Yankton met July 16, 1906, in the old register of deeds office to form the “Northwestern Homestead Movement” with headquarters in Yankton.

The purpose of the meeting was to bring a better class of intelligent Blacks from southern states to South Dakota to file on land in colonies and in the case of those having the means to buy land outright.

The movement was in complete harmony with the work of another active organization in Yankton formed by the “Link Brothers” which was founded by C.C. Yancey, also known as Tom Douglas. Although it was said only the best class of Blacks would be allowed in South Dakota, the Homestead Movement was unable to explain how they intended to keep the so-called undesirable class out.

Yankton was to be the hub for the movement with the U.S. Post Office being the place for travelers going through to the colonies.

Land was to be taken up in three ways, by government homesteading, and it was stated at the meeting that President Theodore Roosevelt had been approached on the subject and had requested the secretary of interior to give the matter his attention and assistance; by the buying of farms by those having money and by assisting so called “Worthy Blacks” by the association named on the building and loan plan.

B.P. Blair, Pierce, a prominent and well-educated Black called the Yankton meeting to order and was made chairman pro tem. He vacated his position later in the evening to the Rev. John C. Coleman of D., Oil City, Pennsylvania, who was chosen president of the Northwestern Homestead Movement.

Coleman, a prominent preacher, discussed Black conditions of the day, and said it was the purpose of Blacks to settle in 16 northwestern states; that his role numbered 10 millions and they must be given work; that settled on farms they would accumulate, learn thrift and become good citizens, something they never could do in the South.

He said he frequently was asked as to whether a Black could support himself and family on 160 acres, to which he replied that if the Black in the South, on the share system, had to give half raised to the white landowner, thus taking care of two families, he would surely be able to care for one family in this state.

He blamed the condition of the American Black very largely in his strong religious teachings which taught that it was a sin to be well to do and that no rich Black could enter heaven. He said this false teaching had kept the race from all desire to become independ- ent of his white brethren.

The more prominent of Yankton’s Black people signed the constitution and agreed to take care of the travelers as they came North.

Although many Blacks came to Yankton before and after the Civil War, the heaviest influx of these permanent settlers arrived in the 1890’s from Alabama.

An effort was started by Blacks themselves to speed up the movement through a Black colony sponsored by South Dakotans. It was customary for the Black male to come to South Dakota and stay for several months. He worked and became acquainted with the attitudes of people here.

He investigated the social and political outlook as well as the climate and economy before sending for his family. Often a man had to work a long time to earn the train fare for his brood.

These Southern Blacks called themselves established and respected attention shown white emigrants. They thought Blacks were basically better citizens because they had been devoting energies to the nation longer.

Among those arriving first from Enufa, near Henry County, Alabama, were John B. Shaw, A.S. Lewis, and Dan Whitfield. Late in 1871 John Aucum and his son-in-law, Fillmore Dowdy arrived from a plantation in that state.

When Yankton’s laws became too expensive and rigid for Black saloonkeeper, Professor Thomas Douglas, he promptly moved his tavern to the center of the Missouri end of Walnut.

Douglas owned a cafe on Douglas and Second. He had been fined for permitting Black children to go about the street.

In mid-February 1891, he leased a tract of land on a small island in the Missouri bed directly opposite the Williams and Yellow Grain Elevator.

He erected a small building on the sandbar. Customers had to make a round trip of half a mile across the ice to his combined restaur- ant, gymnasm and saloon.

by Ellen Tobia

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

The Negro was declared to be a free American Citizen when the 13th Amendment to the Constitution on December 18, 1865, abolished slavery as an institution through- out the United States, recalled Leonard H. Carter, Kansas City, Missouri, N.A.A.C.P. regional secretary, at the South Dakota Emancipation and Senior Citizens banquet in the Masonic Temple.

Carter paid tribute to Governor Archie Gubrub of South Dakota for the kind of leadership he has offered, and noted that the state was the 29th to adopt a public policy of non-discrimination because of race or color.
Civil Rights progress during the past 100 years was discussed when the Ted Blakely family of Yankton visited their congressman, Rep. Ben Hefed, R-D., on Capitol Hill. The Blakelys — including Marcene, 11, and Ted , Jr., 13 — were returning from a Baltimore, Md., conference commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Appointed by Gov. Archie Gubbrud, Blakely represented South Dakota's 1,114 Negro citizens.

In issuing the Emancipation Proclamation, President Abraham Lincoln's dominating purpose was to preserve the union. Carter pointed out. On September 22, 1862, he issued a preliminary proclamation declaring that on January 1, 1863, all persons held as slaves in states or parts of states then in rebellion would be freed. The document now known as the Emancipation was signed January 1, 1863.

Gubbrud said he considers the Emancipation Proclamation Centennial one of the most significant events in the nation and offered his congratulations to those who started out under the most adverse conditions a century ago on the progress they have made. We should recognize each person for his true worth, without regard to race, color, or creed, he said for to realize our full potential we need the best efforts of all citizens.

by P&D

(See photo next page.)

Rev. Dr. Abernathy, noted Civil Rights Leader, and Marcene Blakely, taken at Yankton College in March 1973. Dr. Abernathy was on his way to Chicago from Wounded Knee where he had spoken with Indians in the town.

Mr. Ted Blakely and Senator Larry Pressler taken in 1969.
ANNUAL STATE PICNICS FOR BLACKS AND FRIENDS

Many are not aware of it, but about a hundred years ago in 1877 the Negro population of Yankton was more than 300, and the city was said to have the largest Black population of any city in the Dakotas or the area which now include Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado and the state of New Hampshire.

In the 182-year history of the Black people in Yankton, evidence indicate that some prejudices existed, but the white population, more than many other cities, had a faster understanding and appreciation of the status of the Black race.

One of the points in the Black’s favor here was Yankton’s location as a river boat town. When the river boats tooted, it was a signal for the population to move to the banks and observe. Here, often, the Yanktonians saw Black individuals of all kinds away from whip and scorn of slavery. There were cooks, minstrels, troops, laundresses, and travelers.

In 1950 the annual state picnics began for the Blacks and their friends. These originated when Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Mitchell, Rev. H.W. Whitchers and Harvey Bentley decided to have a get-together. Bentley is the only survivor of the original committee. A picnic and program was set for the first Sunday in July. It was rotated among Sioux Falls, Yankton, Huron and Mitchell. Harvey Bentley was president 25 years.

Ted Blakey became President in 1951 at the request of Bentley. Bentley had retired as foreman at the Sioux Falls Veterans Hospital. In 1965 after 35 years, the get-togethers were discontinued.

All efforts were made to get lively speakers for the picnics and among them were Attorney S. Joe Brown, Des Moines, early day fighter for Civil Rights and Dean Pickens, St. Paul, then in the field of journalism at the University of Minnesota and later in public relations with N.A.A.C.P. (National Association For the Advancement of Colored People) with headquarters in Washington, D.C.

Most of the Yankton picnics were held in the Forester’s Park and Hampton Randall in the location of the Lincoln School.

Many of the Blacks were active in politics locally for many years distributing election material, getting out the vote, and providing entertainment at the election rallies.

The 182 year history of the Blacks in Yankton has been impressive. Members of this race contributed much to the sports world during school years; others through personal service bolstered the economy, and brought cleanliness, construction, memories, and well being to this city.

by Press & Dakota 1969

Standing L-R: Mrs. Spencer Blakey, Sr., Spencer Blakey, Sr., John Holliday, Ernest Haye, Isaac Blakey, and Governor Archie Gobbed. Taken on May 9, 1963.

YANKTON COUNTY TOWNS
- THEN AND NOW

Clark West purchased the two acres as Fullerville on June 28, 1902. On the side of land were planted three redbud trees spaced equal distance apart. These served as a windbreak. He built a 2500-foot building and started opera
ginal store which soon became the center of community life. He built a nice home and the necessary outbuildings and as his business increased, the little village expanded.

Clark West had been a stock raiser, a his only yards for shipping were in either

Street scene Irene, SD ca. 1900
Clark West purchased the two acres known as Fullerville on June 28, 1892. On the north side of land were planted three rows of cottonwood trees spaced equal distances apart. These served as a windbreak. He built a 2500 foot building and started operating a general store which soon became the center of community life. He built a nice home and the necessary outbuildings and as business increased, the little village expanded.

Clark West had been a stock raiser, and the only yards for shipping were in either Yankton and Gayville which was a long distance to drive a herd so he asked the railroad for side tracks and a stockyards for the conveniences of the farmer, and they complied. The stockyards loaded out thousands of hogs and fat cattle for the Sioux City and Chicago packers. Two grain elevators were built for the receiving and shipping of grain. The red one, owned by a group of farmers, was called the J.J. Mullaney Co., and the other, the Fullerville Grain Co., which had a 15,000 bushel capacity was also built by a group of farmers at a cost of $4,387.40. Jesse West, Clark West’s son, and Harry West, his grandson, were managers of this elevator for many years. The two elevators did a thriving business and kept a string of cars moving along the side track to eastern markets.

In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Beal came with their two children in a covered wagon, and Clark West built a 2040 foot building across the road from the Fullerville Grain Co. This was used for a blacksmith shop. The Beals lived in one end of this building for three years, operating the shop and then left. In 1915 this building was remodeled into a two-bedroom home, and Harry West moved in with his bride.

Business began to decline after the outbreak of World War I, and there being no need for two elevators, the red one was closed in 1937. Later it was sold at auction and moved to the William Cutts farm which was one half mile to the north.

The general store was closed in 1925 after Clark West died, but shortly after that a family named Miller came there to live and sell brooms made from the cane which they had raised. After they left, the store remained empty until it was sold to the Inch family, who tore it down for the lumber.

The home which Clark West had built was moved to Mission Hill in 1930, and the smaller buildings around the house were torn down to make room for more garden for the Harry West family, who continued to live in the small house which had been the blacksmith shop.

The stock yard fencing was purchased from the railroad by Harry West, who used it for fencing on the corn crib at the old Clark West homestead one mile south of Fullerville.

In 1937 the Fullerville Grain Co. was closed because of the decline in business caused by poor crops, low prices for farm grains, and by automobiles and trucks taking trade to the larger towns. The Harry West family moved to Mission Hill. The house in which they had lived was rented to the Elm Johnson family, who lived there until 1947 when the house burned down. The barn was soon after sold for lumber.

The land which had been willed to Edna Larkin, a granddaughter of Clark West, was left standing idle for a number of years until it was sold to William Cutts for $100.00. He let the grasses grow, and his farm animals roamed and pastured among the trees which had served as a windbreak for the buildings at Fullerville.

Now all that remains of the thriving little village where four generations of Wests lived and worked is a grove of Cottonwood trees. Today trains roar past the ghost town and the old timers say, “Yes, Sir! There was a lot of business out there at Fullerville in my day.”

The legal description of Fullerville reads: Commencing at a point on the Northern boundary line of by the way of the C.H.M. & P.Ry., where the same intersects the east boundary line of the south-east quarter of the north-east quarter of Sec. 6, Twp. 95, R. 54, Yankton Co., S.D.; thence north 18½ rods; thence West 30 rods; thence south about 13½ rods to northern boundary of said right of way; thence south-easterly to place of beginning, containing two acres.

In January, 1924, this property was appraised at $1,750.00.

by Mrs. Ella Pool

(See photo next page.)

Fullerville Grain Company. Capacity - 15,000 bushels. The original cost $4,397.40. Manager: Ed Larkin; Jesse C. West (son of Clark S. West); and Harry L. West (grandson of Clark S. West who was manager from 1882-1937).
GAYVILLE'S MAIN STREET

The 100 acre townsite which became Gayville was purchased from homesteader Halvor Byneshoek by Tom Wicker and Elnathan Gay of the Dakota Southern Railroad, on December 24, 1872. The town received its name from railroad contractor, Elnathan Gay.

The townsite was surveyed in March 1873, and by the 3rd of April these mercantile stores were started by A.B. Willey, James M. Hatcher, and Ivar Bagstad. The post office was in the Hatcher store. There was also a drug store operated by E.C. Walton, who was the town justice of the peace. Other businesses were two blacksmiths. In November, "The Gayville House" was built by Ivar Bagstad to house some of his employees and serves as a hotel. Mr. H.C. Young built a livery and coal yard and put up several rooms to store the grain that he bought. By 1889 Gayville had a population of 330 people. Ed Cowman started a harness shop and later added bicycles. The Farmer’s Elevator was established in 1899 with Charles Sheshardkin as president. A second elevator, the McCanl-Webster, was established several years later. In 1899 Bert Ely and Louis Langfield established the Gayville saloon, and William McMaster came from Sioux City to start a bank. That same year Gayville was incorporated.

In 1904 Gayville had its first newspaper with Mr. Granger as editor. Other businesses added were a livery barn run by Stork and Peter Lee; a meat market operated by J.J. Revhein, Tony Ryken’s barber shop, and Ole Otdahl’s ice cream shop. Ivar Bagstad’s business had grown so large that he divided his store into several departments: drugs and medicines, dry goods and clothing, groceries, provisions and crockeries, and hardware, stores and cutlery. In addition to their general merchandise business, they handled lumber, other building materials, coal, wood, and livestock.

In 1919 Ole J. Olson started selling Chalmers, Oldsmobiles, and Maxwell automobiles as well as Emerson and Waterloo tractors. The census showed a population of 385.

Ole J. Olson started the Gayville Opera House in 1922. A.J. Nyken opened a billiard parlor and J.O. Cowman was selling Chandler and Chevrolet cars. In 1924 Sherman Collect started Gayville’s first truck line, to take care of the dry line and ice business. George Eldgebar was operating a drug store on the corner of Washington and Meckling streets where the Livestock State Bank now stands. John and Keith Olson tore down the building across the street from the bank and put up a new building to house their drugstore. South of the building on another corner of Washington and Meckling, in a building that was a furniture store and mortuary, and later a grocery store, is now a cafe owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dick Fuhrer. Next to it is the livery store and bar “Wild Bills” operated by Tom Huber. Next to the bar is Don Kaufman’s welding shop. Jerry Wuebben uses the next building as headquarters for his trucking business. He and Darrell Olson, who has a truck of his own, haul grain, hay, and livestock. The old Farmer’s Elevator is now Gayville Grain and Milling and is owned and operated by Mike Peterson. North of the elevator is the post office. Dick Fuhrer is the postmaster. The Observer, weekly newspaper published in Yankton, has a branch office in the building next to the post office. Jackie and Paul Schwader now operate Jackie and Paul’s Superette in part of the original Ivar Bagstad building. The north part of the building has been converted into an apartment and a beauty shop by Bob and Yvonne Thistle. Yvonne operates The Country Car Beauty Shop, and Bob makes leather goods and repairs shoes. Where Ivar Bagstad’s hotel stood is a modern supper club, bar, and recreation room “The N Bar” owned and operated by Marvin Jensen and Cynthia Jensen.

South of the business district is a service station operated by Bud and Kajsa Jared. The Exquisite “Swede” Olson operate a bulk gasoline delivery service which was started by Gene’s Uncle P.M. Olson. Two hay miles southwest of Yankton, just south of the Meckling colony, with an establishment of rural routes out of Yankton, the post office at Yankton was discontinued. The post office at Yankton was operated by Herman Howar.

The community of Jamestown was founded in the late 1870’s by Herman Herman. He deserted the German Army and came to America where he joined the United States Army in New York. About this time there was an Indian uprising in Dakota Territory and the Cavalry was sent in to quiet things down.

His time was up for discharge when he was in South Dakota, and at this time there were all kinds of land available that you could homestead. This means if you lived and worked this land for a certain number of years, it belonged to you. Mr. Hawer homesteaded three or four sections, but eventually he sold them off except for the one section which he built a general store and post office.

In 1960 the depot and Dr. Kosberg’s lumber and elevator were located near the track at the front of the business district. Jimmy Bickell, closed the Standard hardware store and moved to Jamestown. Later that year, the building was torn down to make room for a new hardware store.

The community hall and a pool hall were also on the street, Joe Corp had an ice cream shop, the Straka’s grocery, post office, gas station, and barber shop.

The site of the old St. John’s Church was on the map in the 1920’s and it was the coming of the railroad that led to the development of the area. The railroad was built by the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul Railroad.

The first school in the area was built in 1877. It was a two-room schoolhouse. In 1890, the school was moved to a new location and renamed the St. John’s School. In 1892, the school was moved again and renamed the St. John’s Academy. In 1898, the school was moved to its current location and renamed the Jamestown High School.
JANOUSEK, SOUTH DAKOTA

Janoisek, named after Attorney Joseph Janousek, who planned the village, was located in Zakow Township about five miles east of Tabor. It seems that in 1916 George Fejfar had 40 acres of his land surveyed and platted for a town. Farmers living nearby petitioned the State Railway Commission for railroad tracks to ship their grain and produce. The Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul laid the tracks. On July 17, 1917, town lots were put up for sale, and Joseph G. Fejfar, son of George and Alois Konak erected dwellings there.

The depot and Ed Koenig’s lumber yard and elevator were located near the tracks. In time the bank, directed by cliff Schiber and Williams, and a general store, managed at first by Joe Fejfar and then taken over by Charles T. Slowey and his wife in 1925, were to be found at the northwest end of Janousek’s main street. Joe Petrick of Tabor bought the store in 1927. The community hall and a pool hall faced each other across the street. Joe Pechan’s blacksmith shop, the Straha’s grocery store, a post office, gas station, and barber shop were places of business that helped to put Janousek on the map in the 1930's and 1940's. But the coming of the trucking industry brought an end to the need for local shipping facilities. The elevator was moved to Tabor and when Koenig’s lumber yard burned, it was not rebuilt.

Then Janousek, like many small towns started so enthusiastically in the early days, began to fade away. Today the land where it was located lies idle, and the mound for the railroad tracks, the footings for the elevator, and the abandoned Fejfar house are all that remains of the once active little community center.

by Sister Verena Kaiser

LAKEPORT, SOUTH DAKOTA

Lakeport, at one time a center of activity, has now vanished from view, but its colorful history has not been lost. It was an unincorporated village about ten miles northwest of Yankton in south central Zakow Township. Czech and German families settled near the lakes from which it got its name.

Most likely the first to camp near the lakes were Indians. They may have pitched their tents there as they traveled from their reservations in Greenwood to Yankton. An Indian grave found on the east of what would become Lakeport proves that some warrior left his friends to enter the happy hunting grounds and was interred there.

Whether Jessie James and his gang spent some time south of Lakeport in the hills hiding from the law may be as much fiction as fact. But Jessie was at large from 1866 until 1882 and could well have found the area to his liking.

History records that Companies A, B, and C of the 14th Iowa Infantry were raised in Iowa City and almost immediately started on a 200 mile overland march to Fort Randall. On December 1, 1861, they camped near the lakes on Military Road ten miles west of Yankton. This Sioux City-Port Randall Military Road had been built before 1856. The daily stage with covered four-horse coach ran between Yankton and Springfield and stopped regularly in Lakeport in the 1870's and 1880's. General George A. Custer and the Seventh Cavalry camped in the area on May 6, 1875.

George and Parker Brown seem to have the distinction of choosing the location and giving the name Lakeport. They erected a log hotel in 1861 and established a post office that same year only to have it close in 1864. The first Czech immigrants settled in the Lakeport area in 1869 and were followed by many others who appreciated the fertile soil found there.

Apparently the post office in Lakeport “passed around” for first it was in Brown's store, next it was opened near the Star Hotel, then the Pfieffer brothers had it and finally before it closed in 1901, it was in O'Leary’s General Store. This store was purchased by Vaclav L. Mrvik in 1906; he did a thriving business judging by all that has been written about it. He carried in stock and sold or bartered all manner of goods that a farm family might need. These he purchased in Lakeport on his weekly trip there, first by horse and wagon and later in his Maxwell or Overland. Besides “his store was a grand place to get together and visit!”

Other places of business which served the people of the area at various times included the Star Hotel, Pfieffer Grocery & store, a café, Gehrich Blacksmith Shop, Jaeda’s and Jim’s gas stations, and several dance halls and saloons.

In 1872 the first school, a Czech school, was opened to accommodate the children of the Lakeport area. It stood near the site of the present church and was used for approximately 30 years. The school in school district #13 was opened in 1905 and served well until it went the way of all rural schools.

The first Catholic church in Lakeport was built in the early 1870's on the Frank Nedved farm. Views that differed from those of Bishop Marty led it to closing; only the
In 1881 Anton Land John P. Pleifler donated 10 acres of land for a church and cemetery. Volunteers pooled their efforts to haul chalkrock from a quarry on the bluffs of the Missouri River, seven miles south, and to build the church on its present site. John Kaiser donated the bell which stood in front of it and which is now doing duty in Tabor in the tower built for it there. Friests from Tabor, Yankeon, and Lesterville offered mass in St. John the Baptist Church at different times. The little church was repaired and painted in 1920 and again in 1980.

In the fall of 1984 a joyful, loyal group of worshippers gathered to celebrate the centennial of the construction of the church. A clean-up party the day before, and mass on September 30 followed by a potluck dinner were enjoyed by some 300 persons, descendants of the pioneers whose labor provided the only structure that has endured to the present time.

The Czech are an industrious, happy, music-loving people. Band, parades, dances, and social gatherings are part of their life. But the “cradle” of Czech life in Yankton County, the little village of Lakeport, was threatened when nearby Tabor in Bon Homme Country became a trade center, and its death knell was sounded when highway 90 was relocated in the early 1940's. Lakeport, at one time the center of the religious, business, and social life of the community, has been reduced to a memory and its location identified by a little, dignified but forsaken chalkrock church and a cemetery.

by Sister Verena Kaiser

LESTERVILLE

On March 1, 1876, Henry Rudd settled on what is now known as the Rudd farm; there he built a sod house. Since this was on the stage line, his place became a stop for changing horses and feeding passengers. In time this stop became a post office. Mr. Rudd called the office Lesterville, probably after his grandson Lester Dix.

Later the post office was taken over by A.S. Dunning. In 1884 Mr. Dunning moved to the community known then as Moscow and brought the post office with him. Charles Loeber took over the job of postmaster and used his influence to retain the name of Lesterville for the tiny community, and

Birdseye of Lesterville taken in early 1918.

Present St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

Moscow faded from existence.

The actual site of Lesterville was patented to Jacob Koch on May 24, 1861, tract of land changed ownership times, and when J.R. Valentine surveyed on September 2, 1882, it was by John Lawler, Orlando Letcher, Wilkins, and John P. Crennan. Tho put the plot on record January 18, this became the official birthday of although it become incorporated 1883.

The Kappel addition was added in 1883, and the Wagner addition was July 10, 1902.

The railroad played an important part of the history of Lesterville when it passed through the middle of An occurrence was only the log homestead Jacob Koch. The Milwaukee Depot was opened 1885. In 1888 three farmers; I Schafer, and Stickly built the first elevator.

Joe Koch, a brother of Jacob Koch the lot now owned by the Joseph family and built the first store. This contained a general merchandise etc. saloon. He also had 3 bedrooms and served meals. He hung a sign in his store with the name Moscow, a time the village was known by that name. The town was then called Lesterville by the summer of 1883 the town was shaped with Lake Street being the main section. This was because of the large lake on the section.

Looking north up Main Street. Picture taken early 1914.

Looking west at the corner of Main and First Streets - year unknown.

Roosevelt School in Lesterville - year unknown.

Congregational Church - year unknown.
The actual site of Lesterville was originally patented to Jacob Koch on May 24, 1879. The tract of land changed ownership several times, and when J.E. Valentine surveyed the townsite on September 2, 1882, it was owned by John Lawler, Orlando Letcher, Frank G. Wilkins, and John P. Crennan. The owners put the plot on record January 20, 1885, and this became the official birthday of the town although it became incorporated April 10, 1888.

The Kappel addition was added August 1, 1893, and the Wagner addition was recorded July 10, 1902.

The railroad played an important part in the history of Lesterville. When the first train pulled in about the middle of August 1882, there was only the log homestead built by Jacob Koch. The Milwaukee Depot was built in 1885. In 1888 three farmers; Novotny, Schaffer, and Stickel built the first grain elevator.

Joe Koch, a brother of Jacob Koch, bought the lot now owned by the Joseph Pekas family and built the first store. This building contained a general merchandise store and a saloon. He also had 3 bedrooms for travelers and served meals. He hung a sign in front of his store with the name Moscow, and for a time the village was known by that name.

By the summer of 1893 the town was taking shape, with Lake Street being the business section. This was because of the fact that there was a large lake on the section line just at the southwest corner of town, and when teams coming in from the south went around it, they came out about at the end of Lake Street. By 1894 business places were also opening up on main street, and gradually it became the center of community.

Until 1895 Lesterville was located in school district 38 and has been sending its children to school about a mile and a half southwest of the present cemetery. With 15 families in town, many of them large, it was felt that by taking in part of district 39 and a little of district 38 another district could be created in town. This was done, and district 59 was made.

On September 2, 1885, title to lots 5 and 6 of block 7 was sold to the school district for $40.00, and a new school house was built on the corner of Jackson and First Street. A.S. Dunning was the first teacher.

In 1903 the location of the school was moved to a central location, and a new building was built. In 1921 a high school was added with Professor G.W. Blake in charge.

The school continued until 1943. This building still houses grades kindergartners through sixth, the older children travel by bus to Scotland for classes.

The little community grew reaching a population of 311 by 1915. The railroad helped greatly in the growth as merchandise was shipped in and out by rail. During the first half of 1916 the firm of Ripple, Roll, and Womack sold 51 car loads of hogs and several loads of cattle out of Lesterville.

The railroad also offered cultural opportunities to the community. Touring groups called Chautauquas traveled by rail, stopping to a house form at Lesterville. The traveling band of John Philip Sousa was one of these groups that stopped in Lesterville in the early 1900s.

Over 30 businesses served the community during the early 1900's. Some of the businesses were: John T. Janda General Merchandise, F.J. Kolda General Merchandise, Meat Market; Westside Saloon, Krember Barber Shop, Goodridge Lumber Company, O.F. Carlson, druggist; Lohke Barber Shop and Pool Room, Lars A. Bruce and Joseph Janosek, attorneys; D.F. Moore, physician; D. Figger, dentist, Fajfar Hardware Shop, McCullus Webster Elevator, and the Lesterville Ledger.

Electricity came to part of Lesterville September 10, 1915, when John Janda installe an electric plant that supplied lights for Janda's store, Tcoonie Saloon, and Ripple Hardware and Implement Store. A six horsepower engine was used for this.

In November 1916, a special bond issue was passed for $5,000 to build a municipal light plant. Due to the shortage of a supply of water during the war, the plant was not completed and operational until March 7, 1918, when Mr. Claud McKissack became the first plant engineer of the municipal light plant located behind the city hall.

In March 1918, another bond issue carried 4% to 1 repair the water tank and improve the existing water system. The original water lines were laid in 1896. Water brought out the loyalty of the community; many young men enlisted in the army. Both the Red Cross and Liberty Bonds were well supported.

The war also caused problems for the Germans living in the area. April 10, 1918, Mr. C.F. Carlson was tarred and feathered because he continued to sell to the German people living in the area. This led to the posting of a $500.00 reward for the identity of the persons responsible.

Religion was important to the settlers, and Lesterville was home of three churches. The Congregational church to serve the area was built in 1873, three miles south of Lesterville on the Polish cemetery was located. The land was donated by Joseph Wallach. A new church was built in Lesterville in 1903, and the old church was torn down. Fire destroyed the original structure June 21, 1918, and for a while services were held in the city hall on Main Street. The corner stone for the present church was dedicated June 8, 1918. The building was finished in the spring of 1920.

A Congregational missionary, Rev. W.G. Bell, organized a Sabbath school at Lesterville in the summer of 1887. Later through the efforts of Rev. James Letcher, the church was organized in December of 1888; morning and evening gospel meetings were held in the waiting room of the depot.

Mrs. Joseph Ward, wife of Joseph Ward, pastor of the Yankton Congregational Church, came to Lesterville as a home missionary. Through her efforts a house and lot were purchased for the congregation and Ward Memorial Church was built by Pilo Hitchcock and dedicated October 24, 1891. The congregation disbanded in December 1881, and the building was torn down.

A church was located across the street to the north from the Congregational Church, and was converted into a home. The community was served by the building listed on 1905 city maps as a church as it was converted into a home for the Lesterville Grange.

Baseball has long been a popular sport in Lesterville. The local Grange and a small area towns were played on a ball field at Ripple's Pavilion just south of town. The rivalry with Taber was born and continues today. After Ripple's Pavilion was closed, games were played on an empty lot across from the school. In the late 60's work was started on the present ballpark, a real home for the Lesterville Bronco's.

1950 was a big year for the Bronco's went on to become the South Dakota State Amateur Baseball Champions. This was not the last championship team from Lesterville. In 1973 Lesterville was the home of the State Class B JVY Teener Baseball Runner-up team, and in 1985 Lesterville won the State Class B American Legion Tournament.

This sleepy little community has seen many changes in its 100 plus years; the business district is only a shadow of its former self. The depression, the decline of the railroad, the changing of transportation, all played a hand in the decline of Lesterville, but its spirit lives on. The former site of Kolda's store is now the Lesterville Commumiy Club. The club took over the building from the American Legion in 1979 and is now used by area residents and organizations for meetings, dances, and other social gatherings.

Through the effort of local citizens, playground equipment was added to a park area just north of the baseball park; streets have been paved and a new water system installed. Lesterville is generally quiet and peaceful now. Only the laughter of children enjoying the freedom of small town living, and cars or machinery passing through breaks the silence.

by Rosalie Matuszewicz
The first residents of Midway were Mr. and Mrs. John Bratberg, and the first business was a garage and car dealership operated by Bratberg and Ben Olson.

The road, now Highway 81, had just been graded and graveled past the garage, and Bratberg convinced the owner of the Hansen store a mile east and some south to relocate the store on the 'new' road. Swan Swanson, seeing the advantage of a hard road, moved his house and built a new store at that site.

The small cluster of buildings was known as Midway because of its mid-way location between the towns of Yankton, Freeman, Irene, Scotland, Minnesota, and Viborg.

The community continued to grow with an egg and cream buying station operated by Swanson's daughter Margaret and a trucking business by her husband Joe Nielsen. Regular routes were traveled daily to surrounding farms to gather eggs and cream, and then the produce was taken to Yankton creameries and produce houses. Livestock was hauled to sales in Yankton, Sioux Falls, and Sioux City, and grain was hauled to local elevators.

Swanson's Store was of a general variety, selling hardware, dry goods, groceries, and fuel. Flour by the barrel, bulk sugar, coffee beans — whole or you could have them ground, chicken feed, high button shoes, and penny candy were ever popular. A favorite of the Scandinavian community during the holidays was lutefisk, with several barrels being sold each year. It was said to be the most popular with the clerks however.

Daughters and later on granddaughters of Swan Swanson took turns at clerking as did a few neighbor girls. Filling oil bottles from the barrel was helped by pouring jugs of vinegar from the barrel in the store were daily chores.

Between customers the Swanson children were permitted to play tennis on the highway. When all the cars were in the garage, the net would be taken down and then set up again after the car had passed.

Ice was cut from the James River in the winter and then stacked in sawdust in the ice house for use during the summer to cool the perishables.

Swanson made trips to Yankton and Sioux Falls in a Rig truck to get supplies for his store.

In the 40's the state travelled library was displayed at the store, and area folks were permitted to check out books to read with a new selection arriving every about three months.

Oswald Hansen and his wife Josie opened a small shop in the living room of their home where they sold coffee, sandwiches, cigars, and cigarettes. This venture proved successful so they built a 'beer joint' along with a gas station at the north end of the village. After the Hansens returned to farming, this business had several owners among them; Louise Larson, Max Quick, Cecil Boggs, Robert Hanson, and Henry Meng. Finally being sold to Roger Nielsen who operated it until it closed.

Walter and Mildred Larsen moved their house to the south end of town, enlarged it, and built a new garage to replace the Olson-Bratberg Garage that closed due to the depression.

In 1950 the road became the Maricopa Highway and was then hard surfaced. This ended the tennis matches as traffic became heavier but still provided a good place to run barrel hoops.

Special functions were often held on weekends when all the neighbors would gather for some good old fashioned socializing. Quilting contests, pillow contests, recipe collections, and horseless tourneys were held. Ball games on Sunday afternoons were a popular event with games played in a pasture north of the creek at first and later a new ball park at the north west corner of town. The Midway teams were often ranked among the best.

The M&M Tent Shows also made annual stops, playing to a full tent for two or three days each summer. During winter blizzards many travelers found a warm place to stay and plenty of food while they waited the snow plows to open the roads.

Several residences were also built in the little town that the population grew to a high of 22 in 1905. Midway today, 1985, still boasts of the same country store operated by Swanson's daughter Lillie and her husband Harvey Anderson; Nielsen Trucking now owned by her son and Margaret's son Martyn Nielsen; a crop spraying operation run by Roger Nielsen and his son Roger E.; and an antique shop located in the former Larsen garage, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Turman, Midway's newest residents.

Midway — still small, but very big in Yankton County History.

by Mrs. Shirley Christiansen

TOWN OF MISSION HILL

T67

As a youngster growing up on our family farm south of Mission Hill, I remember many summer trips with my brothers, sister and parents to the little town on the bluff overlooking the Missouri and James River valley.

Our grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A.L. (Abe) Voss and nieces and nephews moved from the family farm in the early 1890s to help develop the town site of Mission Hill founded by Rev. D.S. Nichols, a missionary from Ohio. It was first known as "Mission on the Hill." Our parents Ben and Anna lived in Sec. 8 Gayville Township. Dad's brother Lewis and family lived across the road from our farm. Lew, as he was commonly called, operated the original Van Oudel farm. There was a large sawmill, producing cottonwood lumber for the surrounding neighborhood. Uncle Lee and Aunt May raised a large family. As youngsters we spent many hours with our cousins. Dad's oldest sister Lena who married Hokey Johnson had left the farm and Uncle Hokey operated a garage in Mission Hill. A number of members of the Voss family, our relatives, lived in Mission Hill so you can see we had many reasons to visit the town on the hill.

During the late "twenties and early 1930's there were quite a few business places on the main street of Mission Hill. I recall the grocery store run by Runyon Federman and a drugstore where we "kids" could get an ice cream cone. In addition, an implement store, hotel, and a hardware store were in operation.

One of the interesting parts of the town for all of us was Lincoln Park, which still exists in the area south of the hill next to the Farmers' Elevator. Dad spoke of how Grandfather, whose hero was Abraham Lincoln, had spent much time and money to develop the memorial to President Lincoln. The bluff south of Grandpa's first home located on top of the hill and now owned by Mrs. Herman Anderson, was terraced with fieldstone; a lake was dug to add to the scenic beauty. Dozens of elm trees were planted to complete the park. A large statue of Lincoln, still standing, was constructed on the bluff overlooking Lincoln Park. This park was the scene of many swimming parties, Fourth of July celebrations, and family reunions for many years. Relatives came from towns and farms for miles around. One of the last big get-togethers which I recall was held in 1939. We were gathered for a farewell party for our neighborhood relatives and his family and as they were ready to move to Texas.

Modern transportation and changing economic conditions soon brought a different scene to Mission Hill. The traveling medicine show, movies on the walls of store buildings and travel by train to area areas disappeared from the community. Yet Mission Hill still persisted.

Today the small town still has a post office, neat locker plant, and Farmers' Elevator. Mission Hill has always been a strong religious center, supported and led by the Vangston Lutheran Church and the Mission Hill Congregational Church.

In 1976, the National Bicentennial year, a celebration was held in Mission Hill. The town had been designated a Bicentennial Site by the State Commission. City, church and community leaders formed a committee which planned a summer celebration. The town board had done a good job removing the dead elm trees from Lincoln Park. A large parade down Main Street, activities of historic value, lunches, and street dances in the evening were all a part of this eventful day. I had the honor of being chairman of this celebration. I shall always be grateful to those who worked so hard to put Mission Hill on the map. We appreciate the continuing efforts of the Mission Hill townboard in the preservation and upkeep of Lincoln Park. The "Little Town on the Bluff" is still a nice place to live and raise a family. Grandpa and the other pioneers had some great ideas and I think the spirit is still there today.

by Bennett Van Os
as "Mission on the Hill". Our parents earned their living by farming in the area. Our childhood was spent in a small town called Mission Hill, located on the hill that was once the site of a Native American settlement. The town was named after the hill that served as a landmark for travelers on the old Oregon Trail.


TALMO

TALMO Elevator with the Great Northern Railroad. The Talmo Hill in background, directly south of Milburn Kjeldseth's farm.

TALMO

A beautiful tree-covered hillock area about four miles west of Waucoma or four miles south of Iront. It was 1/2 mile south of the present oil road.

place to live and raise a family. Grandpa and the other pioneers had some great ideas. I think the spirit is still there today.

by Bennett Van Oudel

TALMO

TALMO

The Talmo sign near the Depot directly south of Milburn's farm. L-R: Albert and Esther (Kjeldseth) Johnson, Vera (Aggergarb) Kjeldseth, and Harold Kjeldseth.
Grading the road to Talmo Elevator are Clarence and Oscar Kjeldseth taken around 1913.

Grading the road to Talmo Elevator are Clarence and Oscar Kjeldseth taken around 1913.

Freight train each way every day. One passenger train was called the "Galloping Goose." Bill Hogan was engineer many years. Bill Desmond served as baggage-man and brakeman. A boxcar sitting on the ground served as a depot. To board the train a person stood in the middle of the track and waved a white flag until the engineer saw him and signaled him with two short toots of the whistle. Steam provided the power until about 1950 when it was replaced by diesel engine. The steam did roll from the steam engine.

For many years there was a mail car on the train, and as it passed, you could see people in it sorting mail as it went up the track. When the mail was changed from train to truck, it wasn't long until the traffic on the train seemed to drop. One man in each town had the job of meeting the train and handing the mail to the post office.

During the depression years it was a common sight to see tramps walking up or down the track with a pack on their back. During this period after every rain-storm—be it Sunday or during the night, you would hear the "section men" come on their hand car checking the track for wash-outs. Some who worked at that time were: Olin Engen, Fred Benner, Ingvald Brandon, Martin (Jack) Peterson, Bernard and Delmer Oursland, Hans and Everett Sorensen.

After the road was changed and the depot removed, Milburn Kjeldseth remembers boarding the train right by his house. The last time it stopped for "Boarding." Milburn's mother, Mrs. Clarence Kjeldseth, and Grandson George (age six) took the train to Yakima.

The train started in 1894 and the last one in 1961.

About 1910-1915 Talmo had a very active baseball team. Some of the players were: Alfred and Iver Gevik; Julian Lund; Clarence, Oscar, Olly, and Floyd Kjeldseth; Sam Holm, Adolph Pfeffer, Martin Johnson, Elmer Thompson. There was also a Bowery. It was located in the grove on the Nels Fredrickson farm where Milburn Kjeldseth now lives. Many dances were held there.

Until the mid-1940's Talmo was a very popular picnic spot. It was a common sight to see young people from Irene and Volin walk the railroad track to have a picnic there. Volin High School's "Freshman Initiation" was to walk the track to Talmo and then have a water roast.

The first road down the Talmo Hill was made by the local men with horses and scrapers. It was very steep. When Model "Ty" came out they had to back up the hill because the slope made it impossible for the engine to get gas.

Two houses were built there. Now there is nothing left but memories.

by Milburn Kjeldseth

TOWN OF UTICA

(Foreword—To chronicle the history of the town of Utica, there are not too many previously written facts concerning the town's beginning. Therefore, there was a heavy reliance on transfers of property as recorded in the Yakonis County Register of Deeds office, (with an assumption that the building construction was started about the time the property was acquired), in order to date the start of early businesses in Utica.

The business store in Utica started by Mike and Darby.

"Little Dutch Band": L-R: Frank Petrik, Frank Wagner, Jim Pietarsa, Harry Arndalde, Chris Peterka, John Srb, Stanley Srb, Joe Pajjar, and Bill Jencsik.

The Talmo Baseball team. These are some of the people that played on the team. Oscar Kjeldseth, Sam Holm, Adolph Pfeffer, Martin Johnson, Elmer Thompson, Floyd Kjeldseth, and Clarence Kjeldseth.
OWN OF UTICA

ord – To chronicle the history of the Utica, there are not too many written facts concerning the beginning. Therefore, there was a reliance on transfers of property as in the Yankton County Register of office, (with an assumption that construction was started about the property was acquired), in order to start of early businesses in Utica.

The courtsey assistance of Janet Mod- enjoyed of the Register of Deeds office must be herein acknowledged. Also acknowledged are the recollcitions of Joseph Ellis, who at 88 uses young is the oldest living resident of Utica, for it was he who recalling his boyhood years filled in many of the blanks encoun- tered. Much information was gleaned from copies of the Utica Times now in the possession, of Charles “Chug” Smith, a former resident of Utica, who salvaged these from the last building to house the publishing

of the paper as the building was being readied to be moved out of Utica. It was from these papers, many of which are dated 1912, the year the paper was established, that much of the following was gleaned.

The land on which the bustling town of Utica was to be built, soon to become the trading hub of the area, was the NE 1/4 of Section 7, Township 54, Range 16. It was given by land grant to Norman W. Tyler on May 20, 1862, and then deeded to Martha Stevens on Sept. 11, 1862. She in turn sold the 160 acres for $4,000.00 to Daniel W. McCarthy of Plymouth County, Iowa on May 16, 1865. McCarthy took the NE 1/4 of that land and platted it into Blocks 1 through 9 and Sept. 14, 1865 filed a plat of the town of Utica. There is no indication as to how the name was chosen.

In 1869 part of the land next to and what was to be the town of Utica was deeded to the Chicago, Milwaukee, & St. Paul Railroad. Information in the Yankton County Centen- nial book indicates a person by the name of Highbea started a small store which closed for lack of business, and that partners Darby & King in 1869 started a store which survived, and who later built a lumber yard and small warehouse. This store being the catalist for the future town, much effort was placed in determining its true location. Records in the Yankton County Register of Deeds office reveal that in 1891 a Joseph Rankin did deed to Rose E. Highbea a 1 acre parcel of land in the NW 1/4 NW 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 8, which is that piece of land which lies east of the railroad tracks. This is where a general merchandise store operated under several owners, the last of which was Hasker & Fosterman. No doubt the first store did operate on this site. Of interest is that the land was granted with the provison that no gambling or selling of intoxicating liquor was to be conducted on the property. If so, the land would revert to the grantor. Further search of the records does not disclose any sale of the property to Darby & King, however prior to his death Ludwig Fejoz had documented to his daughter Doris that when he came to Utica in 1889 Darby & King were operating a store at the above described site. Future operators were Rudolph Pettekas, and shortly after that John Pettekas who in 1911 to begin carrying mail sold it to M.J. Kinney. Kinney operated stores under the name Utica’s Big Store, and according to the Utica Times of August 16, 1852, it was sold to outside interests with C.L. Williams as manager and known as Utica Mercantile Co. The Times of Sept. 6, 1912, advised the sale of the store to F.A. Kundert, and the Oct. 4 Times said he had brought Minnie Foster- man to be clerk. After Kundert’s death it became known as the Hasker & Fosterman store operated by Minnie Fosterman Hask- er and Marie Fosterman, the wife of veteri- narian Dr. A.A. Fosterman. Their employees included John Hlavac and Stanley Srb. The last occupant of the facilities was the block plant operated by Harry Arrundale. While this store was not in the original plot of the town of Utica it was being 

The photo of Utica’s Main Street taken prior to 1910 shows most of the businesses that were the nucleus of its growth, with most beginning in 1880. To document their begin- nings, reliance was placed on dates of the real estate transfers and an assumption that building construction started then. The first two buildings on the lower left are the lumber yard on Lots 1, 2 & 3, Block 6, which McCarthy deeded Darby & King in 1885. Also in 1894 James Darby purchased Lots 1 & 2, Block 7, on which to build a house. This house, apparently the first to be built in Utica, still stands directly south across the street from the W.B.F.A. Hall. Though it has been remodeled and enlarged, Mike King also built a house South of Darby’s, which was later purchased by Frank Smith and moved to a farm southeast of Utica. James Darby did not stay in the vicinity too long as he deeded his interest in the property to Mike King late in 1885. The lumber yard was operated under the name of M. King until about 1944 when sold to Frank Wagner, and then in 1946 sold to Mary Smith, and now operated by Jack Halsted, her nephew.

The next building on Lot 4 was deeded in 1885 to Rudolph Peterka and was occupied by a school. About 1907 the Paul Eaker down, was rebuilt, and until prohibition was operated a the Mundare’s Saloon and later the Fejar. Subsequent uses for the building were the publishing offices of the Utica Times, a garage operated by George Martin, a post office with M.L. Dodson as postmaster, and later a store. Utica Lumber. The small building next to Lot 5 was purchased by Fritz Sedlak in 1985 and housed their home and a shoe repair shop.

There are no early records of the real estate transfers of Lots 6 and 7. However about 1900 the store of Frank J. Fejar was built on Lot 6 and operated by F.J. Fejar & Sons until 1916, when it was operated by Hyman Rovin and Louis Levin and then Emil hlusak. While operated by hlusak it burned down and was never rebuilt. That fire also destrouyed the Fritz Sedlak home. The builder and time of erection of the structure on Lot 7 cannot be determined, nor can the first occupant of the building. Men who occupied were occupied by the Leo E. Saltz family about 1905, and an advertisement in the Times of Dec. 24, 1915, Adama Saltz’s operation of the Palace Meat Market in that location. Subsequent operators of meat market’s that location were from Janko Markeskas and Frank Kolar. Last occupant before it was dismantled by Jack Halsted was Sanford Lowe with a used car storage and sales.

The last building in that block was the Dunn Saloon or Dunn House. The property acquired by Elijah Dunn in 1905 and 1906. Lot 8 was acquired by Schiffer’s deed, Lot 9 from Anton Vanous, and Lot 10 from Margaret Schneider. It was not destroued by the fire that took two lives in 1922 as that damage was repaired. It was dismantled by Leo Fickling who operated the rooming house after Elijah Dunn. Thus all the build- ings in this block, other than the lumber yard, 5
3 & 4. The property was deeded to Maggie Koret in 1894 and housed a saloon operated by John Korel. It was then deeded to Fritz Sekul in 1905 and to Elijah Dunn in 1905 for $4,000.00, indicating that the hotel was then built, and was operated by Dunn until 1906 when he acquired the property across the street. A subsequent operator at this time could have been a Mrs. Gillis. The April 5, 1912, issue of the Times says the Misses Gragnowski (Polly and Frances) were a big hit with their operation of the refurbished Commercial Hotel, and future issues extoll the excellent food served in the hotel dining room. The hotel’s advertisements in the December 24, 1915, Times lists H.W. Michael as proprietor of the Commercial Hotel. Mr. Michael had married Polly Gragnowski. Later in the Oct. 6, 1916 Times an advertisement appears with the hotel under the new management with Harry Arrandale as proprietor. However in the Yankey County Centennial Book Arrandale says that “went down the drain” prior to his induction into service in World War I. Apparently it was then taken over by Fred Kaspar for an undetermined period of time, and the final operator before the hotel was razed was Rudy Malt. Real estate transfers are not complete on the next two lots, 5 & 6, resulting in an inability to identify the builders and earliest occupants. The Josef Dvorak book published in 1926 states a grocery store was operated in 1896 by Frank Barkl, and since Barkl did purchase property in this area in 1894 it is possible he did operate a grocery store in the building just west of the hotel. It is also possible someone operated a saloon in this location as the July 15, 1917 Times noted that Joseph Feijer had returned from Minnesapo- lia, and stated he was going to open a new bar and dance hall on the east side of the hotel. Harry Arrandale ran a pool hall and barber shop in this location before purchasing the building on the East end of the block in 1920. About 1935 M.L. De Jong moved from the southern part of the block and operated this location to operate a grocery store, and it was in this year that he purchased the stock of Harker & Postermans grocery store. He discontinued the store in 1972, and the building has been unoccupied since.

Lot 7 housed the Utica State Bank building. Year of construction cannot be certified, however the bank was founded in 1905, and was operated by Frank A. Wagner and Anton Walks. It failed in 1926. This building also was taken over by M.L. De Jong when he acquired the building to the east, moving his post office into it from the south side of the street. This building also still stands.

The next building was built on Lot 7 by Thomas Limpo and housed the Limpo Drug Store. This building was operated by Jacob Limpo as postmaster. This building was dismantled about the middle of 1937. No other building has operated on this lot. However, Joe Elia recalls as a young boy that a small building standing building to the east of the property was operated by a person named Elia, who operated a saloon operated by George Vanoss. As can be seen in the intersection of 2nd Street in Block 2 are two buildings erected by Mike McGinnis on Lots 1, 2, 3 & 4 he acquired in 1901. The first was occupied as a residence by W.H. Hale and last occupant was Will- iam Harvey, a shoemaker. The next was the residence of the Mike McGinnis family until his death in 1929. These two structures were eventually moved out of Utica. At the end of this block can be seen the livery barn which was built on property acquired in 1908 by D.W. Hale, who sold it to F.A. Wagner in 1911, and who in turn sold it to Mike in 1914. Lucid operated the Big Four Livery from this location as early as the spring of 1911. In 1912 the livery barn burned down and was rebuilt by Lucid. Some years later the building was sold to St. John’s Lutheran Church of Yankeetown and dismantled. In addition to the buildings shown on the photo of Main Street there were other businesses in operation. Along the east side of the railroad tracks were three elevators. The first one was built by Mike King about the turn of the century, then sold to J.J. Smith, later to Chas. Smith, and after years of operation by him was torn down. The second and present elevator was originally owned and operated by the Farmers Equity Elevator Co. which went bankrupt and was purchased in 1912 by Edward Keyen. Shortly thereafter Leo Leifer resigned as manager of King Elevator to work for Koensig since Koensig was appointed postmaster. Sometimes after the town of Janoasu was formed in 1917 Koensig left Utica to manage a lumber yard and elevator there. His elevator interests in Utica were acquired by J.J. Mullaney, then Hart, Bertie & Co. and operated by several managers including “Red” Mokeg and McFarland, until purchased by Mary Smith in about 1935. It is now part of Utica Lumber & Grain Co. operated by Jack Holmes, who has been elevator manager, which is located north of the east end of the street and west of the north-bound road, was built by Mike King after he had sold the first elevator to J.J. Smith. After having built a chain of stores in the area Mike King moved to Sonic City, Iowa in 1907, and all other buildings in Utica were operated by managers, some of whom were, J.W. Tilton, G. Smith, E.H. Martin, Joe Fitzpatrick, Gayle Suedaer, Frank Silhavy, and Richard Balzar. It was eventually bought by Joe, Elia and torn down.

Directly east across the road from the lumber yard was a building (builder unknown) and whose first documented occupant was Wm. “Billie” Ulman who operated a cooperage. It was evident from evidence by advertising in the 1912 Utica Times “November 22, 1912 Times also carried a notice that Frank Kollar was starting a shoe shop parlor in the evenings and Sunday at the South End Grocery Shop. Formerly it was the Utica Times office and post office, and telephone office with Adelia Srb as operator. In 1917 Adolph Peterka, then owned the original building, built an addition on the east end of which he created a garage and Ford car sale. When the Beaver Creek改变了, the shop moved to the rear of the property (commonly called State Lake), he dismantled the complete building to erect buildings and that is the location of the State Lake. In 1899 Anton Elia purchased Lot 20, Block 3 (across the alley of the lumber yard) on which to build a blacksmith shop and implement business. It burned in about 1910, and the property was sold to Wayne Sorenon, and in 1948 this building together with the Z.C.B.I. Hall burned down, was not rebuilt, and is now the east part of the present W.B.F.A. Hall.

Another business not on Main Street in the Utica Creancy Co. In 1897 McCarthy deeded at no cost Lots 12 & Block 5 to the creamery company, as is documented to as who might have same or how long it stayed in it. However it is possible that by 1919 it was converted to a duplex with a couple of buildings occupied by many families (among them families of Al King, Wm. Novak, (Carroll, Ambrose Borghorhein, Mutza for, Anna Meberl) until being purged in 1929. Clement Fejzer the present occupant of the one of the buildings that occurred in Utica on the north end of the duplex was once

Sawdust” Robbins (nicknamed sue) was employed by Yankeetown Sweeper pound Co. His two small children evidently playing Indians as the wrapped in blankets, and the boy playing with matches ignited the blank died from the resultant burns.

With three elevators the town thriving grain market, however it also very active cattle and hog market as to by the large rail yards the rail built south of the elevators and railroad tracks. The town was the shipping p livestock from a large area, but also very active shipper in D.W. Fishb Chan. B. Smith. They had tarna with a mile of Utica where they could put feed livestock, resulting in their pork meat livestock being successfully shipped to the Chicago market.

Much has been quoted herein from Utica Times, however nothing can be so to just how and why it came into being for it was the result of a long struggle by Chas Smith and the second copy no indication as to why or where actually published. However, the publisher’s statement which was required to the county and the state, indicates the owner to be the Commercial Club, with Frank J. Fajsa and Anton Walks, Sec; and J. V. Editor & Manager. The first editor was C. August, then in 1902, first name issues were joined by J.P. Wilme associate editor and Frank Wagner a business manager. In June of 1912 Jane became managing editor, W.W. Ri in 1913, and Rieman became editor until it ceased publication. The town was incorporated in 1905 and 1912 the present town hall was built. With the completion of the town hall, Utica Fire Department came into being the constitution and by-laws being as March 10, 1913, and the formation of chemical companies. The town also a fire department meeting where two pikeers were formed as much pretty much. Who for the men of Utica Company F.P. Meyer, Wm. P. Huebert, Anton Walla, John Lucid, Ludwig John Schr, Charley Hajek, Eno Koening, William Fajsa, Wilfred Smith and John Peterka. Company 3 Mike Usan, August Karlenbeck, Mike Lucid, Joseph Fejzer, W.M. Peter Prazerce, Anton Eiln, C.T. Thomas, Elia Malt and J.M. Kinney. After a couple of construction, since all excavation was
The first was occupied as a residence by J. Halsey, and last occupant was W. Wil- arvey, a shoemaker. The next was the site of the McGee family until 1820. These two structures were actually moved out of Utica. At the far end block can be seen the lively barn which sits on property acquired in 1908 by Mrs. Fogle, who sold it to P.A. Wagner in 1920, and in whom it sold to Mr. L. Locust, operated the Big Four Livery since its location as the spring of the 1921 a lively barn burned down to the ground rebuilt by Loomis and building was sold to Mr. John Molon and everything from the Main Street there were other shops in operation. Along the main street railroad tracks were three elevators, first one built by Mr. King about the middle of the century, then sold to J.L. later Chas. Smith, and after years of being torn down by the present elevator was originally and operated by the Farmers Equity Elevator Co. which went bankrupt and was sold in 1921 by Edward Koenig, Short- tleather Sailer resigned as manager of E. G. Walker to work for Koenig since it was appointed postmaster. Sometime later town of Johnstown was formed in 1895 Utica to manage a lumber yard on the east side of the town. Utica were acquired by J.J. Mullaneys, Ira, Bertie and Stetson, and operated by the Farmers Equity Elevator Co. which went bankrupt and was sold in 1921 by Edward Koenig, Short- tleather Sailer resigned as manager of E. G. Walker to work for Koenig since it was appointed postmaster. Sometime later town of Johnstown was formed in 1895 Utica to manage a lumber yard on the east side of the town. Utica were acquired by J.J. Mullaneys, Ira, Bertie and Stetson, and operated by the Farmers Equity Elevator Co. which went bankrupt and was sold in 1921 by Edward Koenig, Shortt- lendorf E. 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cian. D.L.F. Curtis who took care of the medical needs of the area until the early 1920’s and followed by Dr. Kimby.

From early photos it appears that baseball was a popular sport in Utica, with the first team fielded shortly after 1900. Tentatively recognized in a photo of that first team are F. Petrik, Frank Wagner, Joseph Fefar and Frank Petrik. Photo of the next possible team, named the Utica Rosebud Team, has such players as Stiles, Plumb, McCormick, Mueller and Walls, with Frank Wagner as manager. This team played together for about three years and disbanded in 1914 according to Joe Ellis, who at the age of 17, played with them in their last year. Players on the team that followed a few years later are identified as Butch Kolar, Frank Kolar, Mike Gimme, Yagger, Bill Kremer, Ed Petrik and Joe Ellis. The ball diamond then was located in a pasture between First Street and the railroad tracks with home plate in the southeast corner.

The team that provided the largest follow ing and most rabid fans was fielded in the middle 1920’s and did win the championship of an eight team league which included Volin, Mayfield, Tabor, Lesterville, Scotland, Mon no and Freeman. This team, with Al King as manager, fielded such players as Joe Ellis, Ed Carroll, Joe Kadrina, Jim Anderson, Frank Kolar, Bob Hladky, Bill Hladky, Bill Limpo, Fred Fefar, Harry Petrika and Dan Morris. During this period the baseball diamond was located about 1/2 miles north of Utica.

With the coming of the depression baseball proved to be too costly, so a move was to playing softball. In the early 1930’s baseball came back somewhat and these years found alternation of both sports. Also in the early 1950’s Harry Arruda moved the ball diamond back to Utica, placing it on the same pasture as the first diamond; however this time home plate was placed in the north and directly across the road from the lumber yard. He also installed lights by about 1940 making it the first lighted park in the area. As with all small towns the depression, followed by the “dirty thirties,” along with better roads and automobiles, played havoc with the once bustling little town of Utica so that at the present time it is but a shadow of its prosperous past. The purpose of this story is to bring to light those who contributed so much to the successf ul past of what at one time was a thriving little community. True, it can never regain the stature it once had, but thanks to the efforts of Jack Halsey, who in the past few years has erected several new buildings to provide more building products offered by Utica Lumber, and to Mary Bohms for his community service, Utica is still a viable little town.

by Robert J. Fefar

VOLIN T70

The town developed when Henry P. Volin subdivided his land consisting of 290 acres of good land and laid out the town of Volin, in 1886. The town was named in his honor. The first plat consisted of but one block and a half. In 1894, he laid out the first addition to the town, which consisted of 15 blocks and by 1897, it had grown to an area of 60 acres with a population of 250.

Volin was one of 13 children born to Charles and Marie Volin, who were residents of the Montreal, Canada area. He came to Dakota Territory in 1886 with his brother, Eucharis, and homesteaded in 1888. On March 1, 1881, he married Minnie Patrick, a girl from County Tyrone, Ireland. They had seven children. He later moved to the Black Hills where he lived out the remainder of his life.

Other Volin brothers involved in the history of the area are Joseph J. John, Charles P., and Eucharis (Carey). Joseph became a resident of Yankton County in April 1884, and was active in early day farming from Council Bluffs to Fort Sully. He took up a claim in the fall of 1885. He married Amanda L. Taylor. They had eight children.

Charles went to Dubuque, Iowa, with his parents when a child. He learned the harness making trade there and in 1892, when 17, enlisted in the Iowa Volunteer Infantry and served three years in Dubuque, Omaha and Fort Laramie, Wyoming, before coming to Volin in 1888. He became a business man there in 1894, being both a harness maker and shoe repair man. In later years he moved to Hot Springs, where he lived his final years in the Old Soldier’s Home.

Eucharis was the first white settler on Turkey Creek. During his first winter in the area he was visited by friendly Indians. He came to South Dakota in the spring of 1866 where he herded cattle on Turkey Creek, east of the current town of Volin, for his brother-in-law, John P. Volin.

In 1867, he started an oxen team freight route between Sioux City, Iowa, Fort Randall, Fort Thompson, and Fort Seylcy. In the winter of 1868, he was caught in a terrible snowstorm. He was snowbound for two days and two nights. The men were buried under five feet of snow. When the storm ended, the temperature was below zero and a strong wind was blowing. They turned the oxen loose and set out on foot to reach the fanner along the Missouri River.

Several hours later they found the camp of some friendly Indians who gave them food and shelter. One of the freighters with them was so badly frozen he died. Eucharis lost the town on his right foot from frost bite, while his brother, Henry, lost all his toes.

Eucharis secured a contract from the government to supply the forts along his route with hay until the opening of the Black Hills, when he started another route from Fort Perry to Deadwood. He sold his business in 1891 and took up a residence on the claim he had filed in 1867. He married Estella Menard Loiselle.

John came to Yankton county in the fall of 1870. He was married to Julia M. Slattery. They were the parents of ten children. They also raised an orphan boy named James F. Volin. The couple later moved to the Black Hills and then to California.

In the late 1880’s the town of Volin and many settlers’ homes were destroyed by a prairie fire. Both Henry’s and Eucharis’ homes were lost, but their youngest brother, John, saw the fire coming soon enough to plow around the buildings and save them. He lived one mile north of Volin.

Eucharis was attacked by a bull in 1889 at which time he had many broken ribs and a broken back. He was a patient at the hospital in Yankton several months. For the remain der of his life he avoided chores or cases, but continued to manage his farm. The case of his fight with this furious bull attracted the attention of the surgical world. They claimed

by Ellen

These are the five Volin brothers associated with the history of the town of Volin, South Dakota and Dakota Territory. They are seated L-R: Joseph J. Volin, Charles P. Volin, and Henry P. Volin. Standing L-R: John P. Volin and Eucharis (Carey) P. Volin.

Yankton, SD, ca. 1911

by Ellen

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Yankton, SD, ca. 1911

by Ellen
If Eucharis recovered it would be one case in a million.

by Ellen Tobin
GOVERNMENT

Yankton's first court house on the northeast corner of Fifth and Douglas. From left to right on the porch are: 1) E.G. Edgerton, 2) H. Hagner, 3) L. Copleston, 4) T. E. Hietman, 5) Tim Welby, 6) Chris Hammerle. The four men on the steps are not known.
FIRE FIGHTING
UNITS AND
DEPARTMENTS
OF
THE CITY OF
YANKTON


A big loss at the Snyder Furniture store.

The first fire fighting unit in Yankton and
the first in the state was organized as a bucket
brigade in 1874. There was no formal orga-
nization, no salaries paid, no equipment owned
and not even a chief. A number of public
minded citizens, however, stood ready to act
whenever the emergency called. When a fire
broke out these men formed a line to the fire
from the nearest source of water supply,
which might be a cistern, water trough or a
creek; buckets were filled at the source of
supply and passed from one man to the other
until they reached the scene of the fire.
Although the men did their best this method
of preventing fire losses was very ineffective.

In the early eighties a well was drilled in
the City of Yankton and water facilities were
greatly increased. About this time a hose
company was organized and was known as the
Teller Hose Company, named in honor of J.H. Teller, a statesman and Indian Commis-
sioner of the Dakota Territory and what
became subsequently the state of South
Dakota; Ole Baker, then Sheriff of Yankton
County was elected the first chief.

The Teller Hose Company was regarded in
the community as quite an organization, not
only as fire fighters but also socially and
many of Yankton’s leading pioneer citizens
belonged to this company. Their fire station
was a small frame building located where the
Manhattan Bar (now the Ranch House Cafe)
still stands. A short time after the organiza-
tion of the Teller Hose Company a second
company was formed and was known as the
Champion Hose Company #2.

Shortly thereafter Hook and Ladder Com-
pany #1 was formed and then to take care of
fires on College Hill the North Side Hose
Company #3 was organized. This company
was composed of many college students
whose athletic ability added undying fame to
the Yankton Fire Department. Their station
stood at 11th and Pine and later Chemical
Company #1 was added to the department.
These five companies made Yankton a well
protected city, although their equipment was
of the latest it was all handpulled. Competi-
tion was very keen, not only as to which
company could function most efficiently but
also as to which could obtain the most pro-
minent citizens as members.

At this period the chief of the company
would direct his men in action by the use of
a horn similar to the megaphone. Quite a bit
of prestige was given to the company that
could boast of having the best “horn” so when
J.P. Creman Hose Company #1, a very
prominent pioneer citizen, donated a beauti-
ful silver horn to the Teller Company, it was
firing for them to change their name to the
J.P. Creman Hose Company #1. This silver
horn is still in possession of the Yankton Fire

WNAX Radio Station on fire on December 9, 1983.
Department and is greatly prized as a relic of the first fire fighting organization of the State of South Dakota. Just before the turn of the century, athletic competition was a prime factor in all volunteer fire departments. In 1899, the year in which South Dakota was admitted to statehood, the South Dakota Firemen's Association held its fifth annual tournament in Yankton. According to records, George Fox of Yankton, won the single man's coupling race with the remarkable time of 4:25.22 seconds, a record which stood for a good many years. The Yankton Department won the "free-for-all" race but was narrowly nosed out by Huron in the championship hose race. A few years later, Harry Higbee of Yankton, competing in the annual tournament at Denver established a world's record for the single man coupling which has to this day never been beaten. In four seconds flat, he ran fifty feet, broke a hose coupling and collected it. On June 23, 1897, the Yankton Hose Team won the World's Championship competing at Madison, South Dakota, in the remarkable time of 27 seconds.

The fire companies came down through the years and many had changed in activities. There were many fires in the early days but the three outstanding holocausts took place in the year 1900, 1905 which was the Fauble Brothers store, which at that time stood on the southwest corner of Third and Cedar Streets, J.C. Penney's store was located. Although the store was completed destroyed the efficient and gallant work on the part of the department saved all of the adjoining property.

A short time later the old Union Block which stood on Third Street near Walnut burned. Strong wind and the highly inflammable material of which the building was constructed made it impossible for the firemen to save the building. Although many adjacent buildings were saved. Again about the same time another very serious fire broke out in a large flour mill which was located where the Holtzman Scrap Metal shops are now located. Also, on Third and Broadway. There was a great deal of oil in the building which cause the fire to be so hot that the firemen had difficulty approaching it close enough to get water and chemicals upon it.

In 1905, a building at the northeast corner of Third and Broadway caught fire. At this time the firemen equipped a room in the basement of the old City Hall to serve as their club room and meeting hall. This idea was carried to the new City Hall and is now located on the second floor of that building. The walls of the room may be seen pictures of the various hose companies, coupling teams and running teams since the beginning of the Volunteer Department. Pictures of all the old fireman's uniforms can be seen. The room is kept all of the prize trophies won by various companies and departments at fire tournaments. Many of these are priceless from the standpoint of the history and personnel connected with them.

The Fire Department has really changed since the middle sixties when the last new fire truck was purchased by the Yankton Rural Fire Association. In the early seventies the city department took on a new face and in 1973, a new chief started in February and in that same month a new fire truck was bid on by the City. During 1973 the City built a new fire station next door to City Hall. During that same time there were many new additions to the department when more officers were added and the department now has a twenty-four hour time employee for the Fire Department and he is now our Fire Marshal/Assistant Chief. As years went by the Rural Association purchased a new tanker-pumper truck. The City bought a new 1250 P.M. in 1982. The Rural Association purchased a new tanker in 1983. Right now the Volunteer Firemen have some of the best equipment on the market.

The greatest fires losses since the early sixties are:

- WYAX Radio Station around $1,000,000
- Snyder Furniture Store at $250,000
- Robinson-Elbert Ford at $400,000.

As time goes on the Fire Department will purchase a new aerial to replace the one purchased in 1961.

Yankton Fire Department Chiefs since its organization in the early eighties are as follows:

- Ole Baker (1875 to 1880)
- Fred Kinzel (12-21-85 to 5-4-89)
- James Kingsbury (2-4-90 to 10-18-98)
- Mill Brisbane (1-10-90 to 8-8-90)
- Frank Ziessent (1-3-95 to 11-20-93)
- Asst. Grant (12-91 to 11-21-93)
- Joe Boote (11-17-94 to 3-2-94)
- Ginger Johnson (11-17-94 to 3-2-94)
- John Ballant (11-17-94 to 3-2-94)
- Jim Todd (4-9-96 to 11-16-96)
- John Litchy (3-14-96 to 7-28-96)
- Fred Donoldson (5-17-1900 to 11-19-1900)
- William Schlegel (6-7-1900 to 11-19-1901)
- James Flannel- gang (6-14-1901 to 2-1-1902)
- William F. Pierson (6-22-02 to 4-4-03)
- Nathan Steinbach (11-18-18 to 11-17-1902)
- Patrik Holderhagen (10-9-1902 to 5-27-20)
- William F. Schwenk (5-27-1902 to 7-19-20)
- Ed Hlave (8-17-20 to 5-19-21)
- Cecel Bauer (7-30-21 to 5-18-31)
- Howard Frick (5-18-31 to 6-21-31)
- George Schneebeli (1-7-33 to 1-7-35)
- And Patrik Smith (3-12-39 to present)

History literally went up in smoke in Yankton, South Dakota, during the early morning hours of December 9, 1985. Yankton firefitehers were called to a structure fire that was WNAX Radio Building in downtown Yankon at 12:06 a.m.

The scene was a grim one. Smoke poured from the building, flames jumped up the basement walls, and intense heat hampered the efforts of the fire fighters.

Under the direction of Fire Chief Pat Smith and Fire Marshal Jerry Baumgart, the 34 member volunteer department began their efforts to save the historic landmark. Not only was the WNAX building in danger, but the adjoining Stuepelagel Egg Factory was also threatened.

Equipped with smoke masks, several two-man crews entered the building and immediately began trying to extinguish the flames. One of the crews entered the basement and extinguished the fire. Meanwhile, another crew, with the help of an aerial, extinguished the fire just above the roof. The fire eventually burned the chimney off one of the firefighters' helmets.

The near zero temperature added to the discomfort of the battling firefighters. The bitter, cold, wind-laden, clothing, turned excess water to ice and coated the uniforms of the firefighters as well as the burning building. But, despite the cold, there were no major breaks up.

Later that morning, after the early morning hours, the firefighters poured more than 400,000 gallons of water on the building. At one point, the flames reached as high as 65 feet in the air and were visible as far as 16 miles away. At about 3:17 a.m., the roof of the building began to collapse. From that time on, the firefighters concentrated their efforts on saving the Egg Factory.

Meanwhile, a small crowd had gathered across the street from the burning building.

Two of those lookout's had a sign in the outcome of the blaze. WNAX, Joe Van Goo and Tom Polies. In the building when the fire erupted, they started screaming electrical, like it was burning. "Gee. "We went out of the control saw smoke coming out of a heat grabbed our coats and went outside."

By daybreak, flames from the building had decreased drastically. The entire fire department re-covered the scene throughout the morning nearly 12 hours after the initial call sounded, Chief Smith dismissed the exhausted men. For the next firefighters worked in shifts to keep full eye on the smoldering remains. Firefighters contributed more hours fighting the blaze. An estimated 600,000 gallons of water were used, with its blazes. One million c/d damage was assessed and was a major casualty. Firefighters realized the fire was not to be put out. The fire roared back out at the Dpl landmark. Old timers are uncertain of the exact details, but the building was a total loss in the early 1900's as a house and cabin. Later, the building was a skating rink and dance hall. WNAX into the front of the building about ago.

Sixty years of history and not housed in the building was destroyed. The building is now being refurbished and recorded a much closer place to your favorite neighborhood. "Wynn Spee exclaims, feeling some of the sadness, badly, I've lost a friend."


OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Prior to 1862, law enforcement in T
district Territory was provided by

The first session of the Dakota Territory Legislature provided for county or city constables and are local units of government at that time there were no police or no revenue level support them.

The Session Laws of the Dakota Territory of 1862, Chapter 23, estal

66
ed a new tanker-pumper truck. The engine a new 1250 P.M. in 1985, and the acquisition purchased a new tanker in ever the Volunteer Firemen have the best equipment on the market. urgent fire losses since the early sixties. VNX Radio Station around noon Ryder Furniture at $250,000 and and Elbert Ford at $400,000. As time the Fire Department will purchase a new tanker to replace the one purchased in

Fire Department Chiefs since its form in the early sixties are as follows:

- Ole Baker (1973 to 1986);
- Fred Johnson (1986 to 1988);
- James King (1988 to 1990);
- Michael Cline (1990 to 1998);
- Miilt Brinner (1998 to 2000);
- Dean Cline (2000 to 2002);
- Tom Polzin (2002 to present).

On a rainy day in early May, due to the effects of the blaze, VNXA announced an emergency fire door and Tom Polzin had been in the building when the fire erupted. "All of a sudden, we started smelling something electrical, like it was burning," said Van Gul. "We went out of the control room and see smoke coming out of a heat vent. We grabbed our coats and went outside."

Daybreak, flames from the collapsed building had decreased drastically in intensity. The entire fire department remained at the scene throughout the morning. At noon, nearly 12 hours after the initial alarm was sounded, Chief Smith dismissed a portion of the exhausted men. For the next 27 hours, firefighters worked in shifts to keep a watchful eye on the smoldering remains.

Firefighters contributed more than 500 hours fighting the blaze. An estimated 600,000 gallons of water were used to extinguish the blaze. One million dollars in additional losses was reported as a result of the blaze and the smoldering remains.

The fire wreaked havoc on the downtown landmark. Old timbers are uncertain of the exact details, but the building was construct-
ed in the early 1900’s as a livestock sales pavilion. Later, the building was used as a skating rink and dance hall. VNXA moved into the front of the building in 2001.

Sixty years of history and memorabilia housed in the building was destroyed by the fire, including photos and record albums of Lawrence Well, one of the most famous celebrities ever to perform in the VNXA studios.

Listeners in a five-state area considered VNXA their "big friend in the Midwest.

Former VNXA radio personality, "The Neighbor Lady," Wynn Spence expressed her feelings of many when she said, "I feel so badly, I've lost a friend."

Yankton's firemen are Patrick Smith, Jerry Baugher, Don Baugher, Frank Carter, Brian Frick, Jerry Frick, Chuck Gilbery, Dave Haass, Larry Haas, Steve Haas, Howard Herrmann, Steve Herrman, Duane Hub-
er, John Kaiser, Steve Johnson, Larry Lanz-
ing, Dave Leyden, Jerry LOCKEN, Bill Miller, Gaylon Nickles, Al Nieker, Mike Nieker, Marty Nash, Tom Rocker, George Schae-
er, Jerry Slowey, Tom Slowey, Gordon Smith, Randy Smith, Don Simonson, Tom Thompson, Don Vosuy, Roger Wenzlaff, Cliff Williams and Russ Willman.

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

Prior to 1862, law enforcement in the huge Dakota Territory was provided by an ap-
pointed U.S. Marshal, his deputies, and U.S. Calvary Troops.

The creation of the Dakota Territory Legislature provided for county organiza-
tions, however, little attention was given to local units of government at that time due to there being little or no revenue available to support them.

The Session Laws of the Dakota Territorial Legislature of 1862, Chapter 25, established a number of county officers including that of County Sheriff. His duties have varied somewhat throughout the years, but are basically much the same today. Sheriffs were empowered to preserve the peace in the County, maintain the jail, appoint deputies and serve legal papers and election notices for which a fee could be collected.

Sheriffs are the only law enforcement officers in South Dakota who have the distinction of always having been elected by the people, except in instances where appoint-
ements were made to fill vacancies, this has always been the case in Yankton County.

Dakota Territorial Sheriffs were elected to office for terms of two years. Throughout most of these past years, one person was restricted to serving two consecutive terms, or a total of four consecutive years in office. One obviously popular Sheriff, William Hick-
er, served sixteen years in office between the years of 1897 and 1934, in separate four-year segments.

After South Dakota became a state in 1889, the two-term limitation remained in effect until tenure for Sheriffs was approved by constitutional amendment in November of 1944. This amendment allowed Sheriffs to run for an unlimited number of successive terms. In 1975, Sheriffs began serving four-
term years rather than the previous two-year terms in office.

Sheriffs of Yankton County, Dakota Terri-
tory:

1862-1864 Charles F. Roosterher:
1865-1868 Franklin Bronson;
1868-1869 William Bailey;
1869-1870 Charles Van Rypse;
1871-1872 George W. Black;
1872-1873 Henry Fisher;
1874-1876 J.W. Case;
1876-1886 Patrick Brennan;
1886-1890 Fred Kilcoo;
1890-1890 Fred Kilcoo;
1891-1894 Fred D. Wymans;
1895-1896 Jacob Rakheberger;
1897-1900 William Hickery;
1901-1904 Jacob Rakheberger;
1905-1906 Charles Wright;
1907-1910 William Hickery;
1911-1914 Jacob Rakhe-
berger;
1915-1918 William Hickery;
1919-1922 A.J. Johnson;
1923-1926 James Fisher;
1927-1930 Roy B. Milliken;
1931-1934 William Hickery;
1935-1938 John J. Lispe;
1939-1942 Maurice J. Lee;
1943-1946 Harry Costas;
1947-1950 Walter Mueller;
1951-1954 Herb D. Kahlen;
1955-1958 Robert D. Warren;
1959-1966 Ed "Babe" Sampson;

YANKTON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

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The handsome building, which was dedi-
cated on a chilly November 1, 1905 after surviving numerous woes, was given an estimated life of 25 years on that date. It has proven its durability and versatility during a generous reprise, even earning an unex-
pected listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

On the exterior, the interesting structure has changed little. Double corner pedestals,

The Yankton County Court House located at the corner of 3rd Street and Broadway.
fluted pillars, portico and balcony with concrete balustrades and the crowning on the top, which workmen called "a chicken coop," are the way they were in 1900 when it cost $80,000 to erect the building.

Landscaping includes circular pruned shrubs, young trees and a neat lawn perpetually greener than a dollar bill.

Low stone retaining walls which fan outward from the front entrance remain a welcome seat for those who want to rest weary arched. These walls were always front row seats, and the first to be occupied in hygiene years should a parade be scheduled. In summertime during the 1930's when downtown stores were open Saturday night, many idled there to watch and greet passersby.

Gone are the weather flags which were hoisted up to a vantage point on the cupola. This service disappeared in the 1950's when radio broadcasts circulated the news better. Gone also the comforting bongs of the tower clock which has wooden hands. Its striking could be heard blocks away when the town was comparatively free of traffic sounds. If the clock was a little slow, or didn't strike at all, someone always seemed to hurry into the "Press and Dakotan" or to the mayor for an explanation.

A boulder on the northeastern edge of the lawn contains a plaque marking the location of Yankton's stockade and another memorial on the northeastern corner acknowledges Company A Dakota Militia.

Tiles varying in colors and patterns on the three floors of the courthouse still make clicking sounds under one's heels. Forty-five well-worn floors and 16 stairs are required to get one to the third floor. Each landing has a matching square-top oak newel post with a carved design of acanthus leaves. The ladies' restroom remains a quaint place with the three porcelain sinks set into three closed cabinets. An antique corner wash basin and mirror that distorts the face and a glass dispenser of razor saps of liquid green soap seem to satisfy women of today the same way as the place did in yesterday.

All three stories of the courthouse continue to be places of authority and the shuffle of state and county business proceeds smoothly from day to day.

Corridors leading from three double-door entrances on the north, east and west sides connect in a dimly lit foyer, which has been the scene for many election and driver license exams triumphs and failures and countless other court meetings. Sign-up sheets in World War II were made official there.

A county election was conducted in the fall of 1902 to decide whether to issue bonds for this courthouse. The county decided to own the structure as well as that occupied by Fifth and Douglas which has no fireproof vaults for records.

This building was sold to the Oddfellow's on October 31, 1911. Although a bad bond issue passed, building was delayed a year because of controversy over the site. Finally, a few property holders united and donated necessary land to the city.

It was a year of other extensive building in Yankton which included Sacred Heart Church, the old Postoffice, Electric Light Company and Yankton College Library.

W.R. Parsons was the original architect who died before the project was finished as did the main contractor, Sam Engelbreth, Bresford, South Dakota.

Rumors started in the midst of the project that cracks were appearing. One of the walls actually bulged. Farrantions were warped. County commissioners got together and decided to make changes. They selected Webster Tomlinson, Chicago, to superintend its completion. Tomlinson traced cracks to soft brick in inner walls and failure to anchor the steel "T" beams that supported floors. All foundations were sound and intact.

P.J. Hogan, Chicago was named foreman, and it was he that pushed work so that it was completed in several months. Mistakes were rectified and additions were made to improve the strength of the building.

Symms Power Company did original heating for the courthouse. Other contractors were R.C. Dudly, plumbing, Straight Electric Company, wiring and fixtures; D.D. Cross, hardwood, Carey Safe Company, vault doors; Schroder and Bremmer, gas fitting; Olin J. Qyener, decorating; C.M. Coates and Son, plate glass, paint and oil, Drake Marble and Tile, extra tile floors; John Parr guiding the doors; E.D. Palmer and H.C. Scotland, superintendents.

The courthouse today has surrendered to some wall updating because of re-plastering. Originally, a ceiling theme of tinted frescoes began in the lobby, continued up the stairwell to second and third floors.

A monogram of Yankton County was noticeable on the first landing, now only anents are a candy machine and a water fountain. Second landing had a seal of the United States while on the west wall was a seal of the State of South Dakota.

J.T. Coe'sh provided oak furniture for the courtroom, which currently seats 25 persons and stand, stand, screen behind it, desks, tables, jury box, witness stand and rails including the hand-etched wreath and garland. Shortly after completion of the courthouse, he was badly injured in one of his machines.

Two doors lead from the courtroom, which is quiet as a graveyard today as if stilled by a gavel rap of some ghost judge. Beautiful ceiling frescoes remain on the ceiling here.


On first floor in 1905 were county superintendent of school offices, janitor's apartments, caretaker's room and meeting rooms. Second floor included rooms assigned to register of deeds, clerk's courts, county judge, assessor, county auditor, county commissioners and county treasurer.

Third floor was occupied by Fifth and Douglas which has no fireproof vaults for records.

The city of Yankton was incorporated in 1869. An election was held in April of that year and a man by the name of George Smith was elected to be the City Marshall. This was the start of the Police History in Yankton. The marshal received a salary of fifty dollars per month. Special police were hired at two dollars per day whenever extra help was needed.

The city rented a building to be used as a jail for five dollars per month until 1871 when the city built a jail for a cost of four hundred ninety dollars. This jail was located at the foot of Walnut Street and was built of chinked plank, and steel. Jailers were hired at the rate of one dollar per day. The city held the planning and development rooms and Contact.

A. Edward Soderberg, LaCrosse, Wisconsin, who studied art in Paris, Copenhagen, London, Rome and Venice, did the wide freeze in the commissioners' room. The first panel from the southeast corner shows a group of pioneer prospectors — two hold horses while the third is mounted — gazing over the bow of a ship at a group of Indians on the plains below.

Next shows an emigrant train crossing the plains. An alarm of attacking Indians has been given, and the party is alert for attack. Third panel is a buffalo hunt in which two Indians on horseback are closing in on a buffalo. Fourth is an Indian council showing Strike-the-Res, Rain in the Face, Crazy Snake or Sitting Bull.


On printing, the Rev. B.G. Mattson, chairman, W.C. Lusk and M.M. Bennett; enterprising printers, chairman, O. Saller, John Krause, M.W. Jencks and Alex Bagstad; finance, W.J. Fandt, chairman, Ralph Case and Dave Finnegan, Cement City Band provided music for the dedication. Speakers were A.L. Van Oesel, Judge E.G. Smith, Sen. Gamble, L.B. French, F.W. Fanslow, B.G. Mattson and Ephraim Miner.

by Martin Slemm

A 1938 police staff L-R: Benny Crowther, Frank Kerovett, Morris Kusnitz, Chief George Grovjohn, George Baum, Olave Murray and Ray Roosman.


was deleted about 1970 with the purchase of two model T Ford's. The city marshall and special police were used until 1963 when two police officers were added to the force. In 1940 the city marshall was no longer elected by the voters of the city. The city commission appointed the Chief of Police and the title of City Marshall was deleted. The first chief of police to be appointed was W.F. Jencks who was the city marshall at the time of the title change. The automobile brought about a change in police work in the city. This gave the police the ability to answer calls more promptly. The first city owned police car was purchased from the R.P. Fitzgerald Motor Co. in 1925 for a cost of six hundred dollars six years. The car was a Model T Ford. Prior to this the police officers used their personal autos for patrol and answering calls.

The present city hall was built and the city offices, and the police moved into the building in 1955. The police department still had the Police Chief and two officers with special police being used when extra help was needed. The police department held a benefit dance in 1956 and raised six hundred dollars to purchase the first two way radio system for the department. The music for the dance was furnished by Lawrence Walk. George W. Grovjohn was Chief of Police.

The decades of 1930 and 1940 saw very little growth in the police department, with the total force at seven personnel.

The city installed parking meters in 1952 and the police bought a three wheel motor cycle to patrol meters. Bill Stevens was the parking meter officer.

In 1953 George Ryan joined the police department for a twenty seven year career. Mr. Ryan retired in 1979. James Jensen joined the police department in 1957 for a twenty five year career, retiring in 1982. The police department had grown to a total of twelve personnel in 1957.

Police work took on a new look in 1963 with the addition of Police Dogs. Officers James Jensen and Stanley Brunick along with their dogs “Lucy” and “Skep” attended a training school in the use of police dogs. The department had a total of thirteen personnel and three patrol officers.

The police department saw more changes during the last twenty five years than it had during any other period of time in the history of the police department.

In 1963 the police purchased a radar speed

the officers on the street. W.F. Jencks incorporated a system of red lights to summon the officers when help was needed. A red light on the car was turned on to summon the police on foot patrol. This system was later expanded to include lights on the court house, Hatch building and Palace building.

The jail had three cells and a main hall. This jail was used until the city hall was built in the 1980's. The old city hall was located on Walnut Street and was used until the present city hall was built. The old city hall is now the Moose Lodge building.

The city of Yankton was incorporated in An election was held in April of that year with the name of the Police as the City Marshal. This was a new concept in Yankton. The sheriff received a salary of fifty dollars a year. Special police were hired at two dollars per day whenever extra help was needed.

The city rented a building to be used as a jail for cost of four hundred dollars. This jail was located at the corner of Walnut and Front Streets and was built of rock, planks, and steel. Jailers were paid at the rate of one dollar per day. The

by Martin Slepcev

ANKTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Taken in January 1963, L. R. James Jensen with "Lucky", officer from Waterloo, Iowa. Officer from Quincy, Illinois, Stanley Bemhet with "Sherp" and an officer from Waterloo, Iowa.

YANKTON PO. OFFICE

In 1899 Dorrer T. Bramble opened a general store at "Yankee" that was the preferred spelling until it became known as a photography of this. The first building of the city was the levee building with the river at the center. In the year 1860, the first post office in the city was established. Bramble was the first frame building. The first building in 1895 and the first post office in Yankton was the first jury trial in Yankton. In 1897, this historic building, before it was a riverfront house.

Previous known postal sites are the south side of 3rd street between and Walnut. 1865-90 located at 104 Water Street and 1901-1906 at 307 Walnut. City delivery was established in 1892.
r use in enforcement of speed limits city, portable two way radios were in 1970, Teletype and 911 phone were added in 1971.

Public Safety Center was built as a joint effort by the city and county: the growing needs of the Sheriff's office, police department and the court and a growing population in the city.

Safety Center became operational on ber 1 1975 when the city and county ormance agencies moved into the g. The Safety Center also has a new ch will house 30 residents.

Police department hired the first full male police officer in 1979, until this use of police matron's had been on an as needed basis. The first officer was Julian White (Tjarks). She or six years and is now the reception- he police department.

Police department has grown from a man with a horse and axman to x forty. The police have sixguns ders police practices have almost put out of use. This came about as a the training, education and computers, are now being used by the city police.

Thirty-four personnel of the police nel staff the following positions: stration, patrol officers, Sergeants, Assistant, Secretary, sinal control, Parking control. mation obtained from the minute the City of Yankton and DoDoy ore, George W. Grovijohn, Ryan and Jim Jensen.

by Frank Arneson

YANKTON POST OFFICE

In 1859 Downer T. Bramble erected and opened a general store at "Yankton", which was the preferred spelling until 1861. There are no known photographs of this structure. It was near the levee and near where the bridge crosses the river. It was in this store, in the year 1860, that the first Post Office in South Dakota was established with Mr. Bramble as the Postmaster. This building was the first frame structure in Yankton, the first Post Office in the State and the site of the first jury trial in Yankton. In later years this historic building, before it was destroyed by fire, became a riverfront bailey house. Previous known postal sites are: 1876-77 the south side of 2nd street between Douglas and Walnut. 1892-93 located at 104 West 3rd. Street and 1901-1905 at 307 Walnut.

City delivery was established in Yankton in 1892.

Rural Free Delivery was established in 1901.

23 Postmasters have served the Yankton Post Office including the present Postmaster, James L. Cowles.

The present Post Office Building was erected in 1904-05 at a cost of $53,499.00. The present workforce consists of 40 employees.

THE CAMPAIGN AND ADOPTION OF THE COUNCIL-MANAGER FORM OF MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT IN THE CITY OF YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

This paper will attempt to show that one man, equipped with a valid idea, stern conviction, knowledge of his field, and youthful enthusiasm, can bring about reforms in municipal government. It is hoped that this record of G.G. Bicknell's civic contributions to the city of Yankton will serve as a challenge to the person who says, "Yes, I know our city government needs improvement, but what can I do?"

This traces the development of the council-manager form of government in Yankton, from its apparent beginnings to its final adoption by the Yankton electorate. There are three discernible phases in the Yankton movement.

(a) The period of Causation. A growing discontent with the apparent mismanagement of municipal affairs in two areas prompted the initiation of a movement. These were the airport lease during World War II and the report of the State Comptroller and his analysis of the fiscal situation. These two affairs proved vexing to individuals daring enough to believe that city government should be operated on a "business-like basis."

(b) The period of Purposive. Corrective Actions Pamphlets were procured from the Ncional Municipal League and the Interna- tional City Manager's Association, upon the suggestion of Dr. W.O. Farber, Professor of Government at the University of South Dakota in Vermillion. The birth of the idea can probably be attributed to Dr. G.G. Bicknell, a Yankton dentist when he read Dr. Farber's research monograph, City Manager Government in South Dakota.

(c) The Period of the Campaign. A lively campaign, moving the adoption of the plan, ensued. It was initiated at a public meeting. The campaign activities included the formation of the Yankton Municipal League, publication of explanatory newspaper articles, league nomination of a slate of candidates, and nomination of two additional slates of independent candidates.

The entire movement occurred over a span of six and one-half years — from October 1948 until March 1, 1955. The birth of the idea is for enough past to permit an objective examination of the campaign as recorded in the weekly Yankton Public Opinion, the Yankton Daily Press and Dakota, and in records of the Municipal League.

The memories of Ted Litcherowski, League President, Dudley Dewell, League Treasurer, and Dr. G.G. Bicknell, originator of the Yankton movement and Secretary of the Yankton Municipal League; and the records of the latter furnished original sources of material. The association was organized during the time when immediate courses of
action had to be planned on short notice. The League maintained no chronological journal of its activities. However, Dr. Bicknell recorded information which pertained to financial matters, lists of possible candidates, rosters of campaign contributors, and reaction to and opinions of the council-manager plan.

Although the league was not large in number, it was a most effective vehicle for marshalling resources and disseminating ideas important in the final adoption of the plan by the voters.

The arguments of the voters were of the opinion that each of their number was required to do aggressive, enthusiastic campaigning and planning, simply because there was no one else to do the work.

The new form of government had been in operation a little more than a year at the time of this writing (1953).

South Dakota historians, in their accounts of the growth of cities and towns, have tended to emphasize the social and economic factors attributable to urban growth, but have neglected political factors.

A city is not a legal municipality simply because people reside, maintain economic intercourse, and worship within its confines. An urban area must be a chartered corporation possessing a certain degree of political authority.

Although the community of Yankton exis ted physically since the Todd and Frost Trading Company first staked their claim in 1858, the town of Yankton was not given statutory recognition until 1862, when the Legislative Assembly of the Dakota Territory, during its first session from March 17 to May 15, 1862, created Yankton County and designated the "town of Yankton" as the "...County seat of Yankton County and the seat of justice (was) barely located and established at the same time.

Two other acts of the Legislature during that session were constructive to the physical development of Yankton and aided in bringing the frontier town a step closer to becoming a body corporate and politic.

Chapter 6 of the Session Laws enacted April 24, 1862, provided for the "Surveying, planning, platting, and forming of Towns and Cities. The act specified a townsite plat containing: a complete description of the streets and alleys; in - lots to be numbered; main streets to be marked by two large stones placed along the center of the streets; the names of the officers of the town company and county to certify the plat and record; and finally, that streets be laid in the corporate name of the town.

The following month, on May 13, 1862, a law was enacted granting particular powers to certain townsite claimants. The act provided that inhabitants, occupants and claimants of land or a majority thereof in a platted townsite could vote to (1) organize into a corporate body; (2) choose a corporate name; (3) elect a president and secretary; (4) draft the laws, bylaws, and by-laws which prescribe the rights of land claimants, (5) charter a school district, (6) fix the tenure of office for officers, and (7) establish time and manner of holding association meetings.

It will be noticed that at this point the "urbanized" community of Yankton had the physical characteristics of a city; the townsite was organized and incorporated under the laws of the Legislative Assembly of Dakota Territory. However, while the townsite association was a body corporate, it was not yet a body politic. It was merely an unincorporated residential area. That distinction must be maintained and affirmed, since cities are commonly held to be bodies corporate and politic.

The act to incorporate towns was passed by the Legislature and went into effect on January 6, 1868. It was entitled "Incorporations — An act for the incorporation of towns, defining their powers, providing for the election of officers thereof, and defining their duties."

The act prescribed certain procedural prerequisites: (1) census to be taken, (2) townsite to be surveyed and platted, (3) survey map and census to be subject to examination, (4) application for incorporation to be made by petition, (5) County commissioners to issue order for the incorporation, (6) ten days' notice to be served prior to election, and (7) the voters to make ultimate incorporation decision at a voters' meeting.

First duty of the voters was to elect "voting commissioners." Following this election, the voters were then to decide by a "yea" or "nay" vote whether the town should be incorporated.

The following year, on January 8, 1869, the city of Yankton was incorporated by the passage of a special law.

On February 26, 1889 President Grover Cleveland signed the "omnibus bill," and Dakota Territory was divided. South and North Dakota were created and simultaneously admitted to the Union on November 2, 1889.

Cities were classified according to population: 
- First class, cities over 10,000 population;
- Second class, cities between 2,000 and 10,000 population;
- Third class, cities under 2,000 population.

Cities of all classes could have been defined as being of the same - mayor, aldermanic type. The mayor's powers were prescribed as follows: (a) release prisoners, (b) remove appointed offices, (c) exercise same powers as Sheriff, (d) Veto ordinances, (e) Line item veto and appropriation bills, (f) appoint policemen.

During World War II, a Naval Reserve Officers' unit was assigned to the Yankton College campus. To implement the liberal arts requirement of flight training, a field was established at what is now the Yankton Municipal Airport.

The father of the city-manager plan in Yankton, Dr. G.G. Bicknell, was a member of the American City League of Commerce.

In 1942, at the request of the civic leaders to provide the Naval Auxiliary Air Squadron with a suitable facility, the airport was granted a lease at a nominal rental of $50,000 per year.

In 1946 Dr. Bicknell was appointed a member of the City Airport Administration Board, because of his active interest in municipal affairs and aviation. It was during this period that the realization of a $950,000 bond issue was made available by the townsite and incorporated bonds financed by the Yankton Municipal League. The city assumed duties and responsibilities drawn up as follows: President, Ted Litchekewich; Secretary, Dr. Bicknell; Treasurer, Dewell; and member at large, Ed Le.

That these men are held in high esteem within the community has been proven by the community's financial assistance and their personal support during the war years. They are themselves and perhaps their stature in the community was partially responsible for their political influence.

Their first acts were to plan a meeting and circulate petitions to city council members to call a special election to determine whether the council-manager plan should be adopted.

As stated previously, the editor of the Daily Press and Dakota agreed to oppose the council-manager plan. Monfort wrote two editorials prior to election on February 25 and February 26. In the first editorial, Mr. Monfort listed the positions taken by both the city and its second editorial was published after the special election. He stated that the Press and the Dakota announced that they would intercede with the mayor and city commissioner to call a special election.

The results of the election indicate that incorporation was in the forefront. But the precise explanation is subject to conjecture ever, statistics and supporting facts continues to be.

Little after May 11, less than a year since the establishment of the plan, certain predictions can be tendered about the future of the city. Experience while serving an undersized city council - the initial transition from the community form to the council-manager form. The accomplishments of which the city council was able to determine by the inaction of the city council this year, and the Yankton Municipal League. The city's growth has been steady and "usual." High hopes were raised by the prospect of a council-manager plan that would be adopted.

Mayor Ernest Crockett, in a board meeting, opposed the council-manager plan, announced that he interceded with the mayor and city commissioner to call a special election.

The results of the election indicate that incorporation was in the forefront. But the precise explanation is subject to conjecture ever, statistics and supporting facts continue to be.

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the picture. There were several ancients. Glimmering weaknesses in account- ences and practices were shown to the C. F. Penne, State Controller, who of the audit analysis, recommended to sort operator, several improvements were put into effect immediately.

al week later a city commissioner of the operator that he could direc- the recommendations of the Comptrol- her plan: the "old system." Thus, cer- from the idea of the city councilor to a city-council member, as a revision of Dr. Dick- when he read a research mono- ment. Dr. W.O. Farber, professor of- men, Dr. Bicknell and Dr. Farber, at the first time in September and sev- community governmental problems.

her exchange of correspondence oc- in January, 1909.

Then a year elapsed and in April, 1911 knell noted that interest with Mad- nath Dakota had re-adopted the man- gage plan and inquired whether the city library was stocked with a Hall of Municipal Reform published by University of California Press.

second outstanding result of the campaign was that of the 172 distrib- October, 1948, through May, 1951; this number, two were made by ex-cit- oners and one by a private citizen.

A city official now appears to the -manager plan to the commission- active campaign to adopt the counci- plan in Yankton will not be in the- an overall chronology, but in terms- active areas. There were four distinct- shen. The meeting was originally- in Yankton. The Mayor of Yankton and- ed to discuss this item, political party, newspaper and-.

mayor's participation occurred at one put- conducted under the auspices of s: who were later to form the Yankton- Editorial Board of the Dakota Press. Dr. G. L. Ed Lanctot, Ted Litchiwski, and- unity member from the University of Dakota at Vermillion was invited to attend in the educational public meeting to the council-manager plan to interest- ness. The meeting was originally- for November 30, 1954; however, -fidence weather and impassable he meeting was postponed for a week- hilly on the evening of December , in the Court room of the Yankton all- merically small, but most effective, mv party was formed and remained- tive during the entire campaign. The- composed mainly of four well known civic leaders, who, prompted by the of Dr. Bicknell, constituted them- d duties and responsibilities drawn by- followed: President, Ted Litchiwski;

Secretary, Dr. Bicknell, Treasurer, Dudley- and member at large, Ed Lanctot.

that these men are held in high esteem by the community has been proven by personal inquiry. They are themselves opinion leaders and suggest that there is in the community was partially responsible for their collective political success.

first act was to plan a public meeting and circulate petitions praying the city council to call a special election to determine whether the council-manager plan should be adopted.

As was stated previously, the editor of the Daily Press and Dakota agreed not to oppose the proposal. A municipal group, directed by Mr. Monfore wrote two editorials preceding the election on February 25 and February 26.

In the first editorial, Mr. Monfore crystal- the positions taken by two city officials. Hammond noted that the publication in time of the election.

While city officials did not act collectively in either proposing or advocating the adop- tion of the council-manager plan, two elected officials did come out clearly on the controversy.

Mayor Ernest Crockett, in a strategically time address in the Daily Press and Dakota, announced that he intended to resign from the mayorship and that he had been a member of the mayorship for more than five years.

Petitions praying the Mayor and Board of Commissioners to call a special election to vote upon the proposal to hire a city manager, were filed with the City Auditor on February 11, 1955. The Commissioners considered the petitions and called a special election for March 11, 1955. State law requires that the election be held 20 days after the presenta- tion of the petitions.

The results of the election indicate that the issue carried in all but the first precinct. The election is subject to objection. How- ever, statistics support and seemingly vali- date one conclusion.

After little more than a year since the plan was put into operation, certain predictions can be made. It is true that experience is not without its share of cities. The transition from the commission form to the council-manager form.

The accomplishments of which the admin- istration can boost; since the inception of the plan in Yankton, are as follows:

1. An effective, positive public relations program: All complaints are investigated. It is a classroom discipline policy. Under the commission form, no such policy existed. All decisions were made on the basis of individual cases.

2. New Budget methods: Previously there was no breakdown of budget accounts other than by "funds" authorized by the South Dakota Board.

3. Employee attendance at professional meetings and schools and training programs: No budgetary allowances were made for employees to attend conferences and meet- nages designed to improve their professional capacities.

4. A City Planning Commission was appointed: The New Planning Commission, headed by Dr. J.P. Steele, has re-written the city's outdated zoning ordinance, submitted it to two public hearings, and moved it to the City Commission for Adoption. Appar- ently the commission intends to enact the proposed re-zoning into ordinance. The new proposal will permit the city to expand geographically in any direction along any specific line of development (resort town, industrial area, retail trade center for agricultural- area) without resorting to "spot zo- ning." To anyone familiar with the practical problems of writing a zoning ordinance, this is a remarkable achievement.

5. Garbage and refuse disposal: Garbage and refuse truck routes were re-organized to save time and man-power.

6. The serious sidewalk improvement program was undertaken in the summer of 1956. This was the first such comprehensive sidewalk replacement program in approxi- mately 20 years.

7. The City, although authorized to be served with scheduled airline freight and passenger service, has never received such service. This was due to the fact that the municipal airport runways were not in good enough condition for airliners to make regular schedule landings.

In the brief year the council-manager form of municipal government has been in operation in the City of Yankton, no organized opposi- tion has materialized against the position, public relations program in force appears to be destroying any opposition before it has a chance to grow. Many of the citizens who were most critical of municipal government are now discus- sing the possibility of suggesting and taking an interest in the city commission proceedings.

Thus, it seems reasonable that the Council- Manager form of Government will continue to operate in the City of Yankton for a considerable time.

At present, the city administration can stand proudly on its record of accomplish- ments. As the late F.H. Larenders once said, there is no Republican way to put out fires and no Democratic way to clean the streets. In local government, what counts is in providing necessary services as efficiently and as rea- sonable as possible.

The key to Better Government is a form of local rule which improves immeasurably the public's opinion of all reporting clean, effective, responsible government. In an era of rising costs, it may not bring down taxes as it often did before World War II, but it is designed to give the citizen more value for his tax dollars.

This system is called the council-manager plan.

A big reason for the success of the manager plan is this simplicity. The voters elect council- men. The council appoints and may remove the city manager, a training administrator. The manager appoints and may remove all department heads. Subject to civil service provisions he is responsible for selection of other administrative employees.

Although the city council may fire the manager at any time, it may not interfere with his appointments or dismissals, neither may the council go over his head by giving orders directly to employees.

A form of government is like a workman's tools. The best mechanic cannot do good work with defective tools but a mediocre workman can do better with good tools than with poor ones.

American cities have generally used two forms of government other than the manager plan: (1) mayor-council type and (2) the commission type.

Voters have no way of measuring a candi- date's administrative ability, if any. They can determine whether they agree with his politics and whether he want them as a representative.

Under the commission plan there are five little governments instead of one big one. It is as though the directors of a business firm divided the executive jobs among themselves, and then each did his job independently of the rest.

The manager plan is strong at every point where the old systems are weak. It provides these two essential controls by voters and efficient management.

The first time a voter hears about the council-manager system, he occasionally jumps to the conclusion that the plan calls for one-man-sole responsibility of the city—dictatorship. This is nonsense (sometimes circumvented to discredit- the plan). The truth is that the manager is the servant of the council, which can dis- charge him at will. He must come to the council for authority to take changes and for the funds to pay the costs.

The most effective way for the people to get a firm grip on the government organization is by putting in the city hall a policy-making council of men who will appoint a profes- sional administrator who has the skill and training to carry out their policies under supervision.

The council is very important under the council-manager form of government. It is the board of directors of the municipal corporation, with power to hire and fire the city manager and to direct policy. councilmen usually meet with the manager every week, find the budgetary needs of the city, discuss the city manager's recommenda- tion, review his proposals, and take responsi- bility for whatever they authorize him to do. By its importance, coupled with relief from technical detail, the position of councilman attracts high-caliber candidates and makes service acceptable to men who value their time.

The manager plan almost always brings improved government and frequently cuts the tax rate at the same time, because of more efficient and less expensive operations of all city departments. Members of the Yankton Municipal League, who are supporting the city manager plan here, haste to note that no immediate tax savings are expected result from it. What it takes a manager some time to become oriented and streamlined city operations so that savings will result.

Also, whether taxes go up or down depends, ultimately, on what the voters want. If the voters want more improvements and other facilities needed in a growing city like Yankton, there's naturally a price tag. But the plan gives the taxpayer better value for what he gets, they insist.

Managers are usually professionals in that work, and are promoted from one city to a larger city paying more salary. The adminis- trative problems of all cities are similar, and it is claimed that getting an outsider who has already proved his ability is an advantage in a city. City manager proponents say that an experienced outsider with a fresh viewpoint,
directed by a commission familiar with local conditions can do a better job than a resident hampered by local ties.

Members of the Yankton Municipal League also pointed out that they do not mean to suggest that the present commissioners have not done a good job. On the whole, the city government of Yankton has been well handled, they believe, but by separating the policy-making and administrative functions and putting the latter in the hands of a full-time trained administrator, they feel that Yankton government could be even more efficient.

Not only are commissioners untrained for administration of the various city departments, they add, but citizens are often reluctant to serve as commissioners because of the demands of time made on them, both in policy determination and in supervision of a city department.

Yankton voters moved to discard the city commission form of municipal government in favor of the council-manager plan when they approved the proposal to hire a city manager by a vote of 799 to 507 in a special election here.

With only a majority vote needed to approve the city government charter, local electors gave a 61 per cent endorsement to the city manager plan.


The city manager plan the following have been city managers since 1955 to today: John Ames, Acting Manager, (March 1, 1955 to June 5th, 1955), Jim Jensen, Manager (June 5, 1955 to June 1961), Francis Hong, Manager, (July 1961 to September 1969), Rufus L. Nye, Manager November 1969 to May 1975), Clifford Stockmyer, Manager (August 1975 to August 1980), Donald Martin, Manager (November 1981 to October 1982), and William Ross, Manager, (March 1983 to present).

Extracted from an original Thesis (June 1956).

by Richard Dean Cords

North side of Third Street between Cedar and Walnut, Yankton, SD circa 1910. (one of the horsemen is likely to be Joseph Mills Hanson). Yankton County Historical Society.

Patriotic Parade April 22, 1917 South of City Library.
Life in the home – Everyone had work to do even small children learned to help. They learned to help with the dishes and meal preparation. They learned to sew, knit and crochet. There was no running water in the houses or indoor plumbing and electricity. Food was mixed by hand, bread baked in the range heated by corncoals. Kerosene lamp chimneys had to be cleaned every day. Rugs were taken up and pounded on the washline to be cleaned. Often, beds had feather ticks for quilts and cornhusk ticks for straw for mattresses. Washing was done in a tub, scrubbed on a washboard, boiled in a boiler and rinsed by hand. Then the laundry was pinned on a clothesline. In the winter the clothes froze before they dried. The pioneers made their own soap using lye and ashes. Everyone worked hard. Discipline and obedience were expected in a strong family pattern. There were no furnaces, heat was provided from stoves burning wood and coal.

Clothes – Clothes were sewed at home. Fortunately folks had Sunday clothes and had style. Small girls wore paisley apron and collar and cuff sets to proster their dresses. In winter everyone wore long heavy underwear. Girls were panty-waists with garters to keep up the long black ribbed stockings. Ladies wore corsets with metal stays. Women and girls had long hair. Everyone wore hats.

Communications – There were no telephones until 1910 or later. No radio, no TV. There were phonographs operated by hand and recorded by artists appearing in 3D depth. Knowledge of the outside world was limited. There was very little crime, no harmful drugs, no divorce but social drinking.

Food – People raised their own food – grains, pigs, cows, sheep. They did their own butchering. Chickens, ducks & geese produced the eggs. Eggs were often exchanged for flour, sugar and groceries. There were no supermarkets. The stores often had pickles, prunes and other food in barrels such as apples and fish. The pioneers went to town only once or twice a year.

Amusement – There was card playing, playing catch up in halls and barns. Baseball was the main sport with some basketball and football but not many places to play. Once in a while, chorus quins came to town with shows and talks for entertainment.

Medicine – The principal medicines were castor oil and Watkins Liniment. Many people were quarantined in their homes when contagious diseases broke out. Many died young. The country doctor made house calls, there were very few hospitals and midwives helped.

Transportation – was by horse and buggy and wagons and sleighs and sleds in winter. There were no steamengines trains and covered wagons. On water, paddles, oars and steam whalers propelled boats. Ferries were also used.

World War Days – Food was rationed. Women made scarves, sweaters, socks and mittens for the men in uniform. The war songs were “Over There”, “K-K-Katzie”, “There’s a Long Trail A-winding”, “I Didn’t Raise My Boy To Be a Soldier”, “How Are You Going to Keep Them Down on the Farm After They Have Seen Paree”, to name a few. When the war ended, there was great rejoicing – bells rang and great celebrations took place.

by Cle M. Youngworth

MILITARY HISTORY - YANKTON COUNTY
ROSTER OF WORLD WAR I

In the days preceding and during World War I, there were very few people who owned automobiles. In our area, known as the Quad Cities, which included Moline, Illinois Rock Island, Illinois and Davenport, Iowa, the Velie automobile was the most popular. It was invented in Moline, Illinois by W.L. Velie in 1909-1910 and was made completely by hand. The price of that auto was $1757.00 which at that time was a tremendous amount of money. Also for those who could afford them, there were electric cars that reached a speed of 10 miles per hour. They were electrically charged in the garage before and after each using. For those without cars, the mode of travel was the streetcar that ran on tracks down the middle of the street. There was also the well-known horse and buggy rig.

There were washing machines both electric, gasoline and hand-powered... Wom...
Noble youths of Yankton County, need not the great beyond in their freedom, under the Star and Stripes, ages are respectfully dedicated.

The Boys enlisted at the first call. Men and sacrifice were born a spirit of com and service that will not die. County accomplished wonderful. The same spirit that carried the men into the great beyond to go with fuses everywhere volunteered to go vice amid the horrors “over there.”

by Joseph Mills Hansen

The Fallen Aviator

In Memory of Lieut. Merritt DeCamp, United States Army.

Once, as a little lad stretched on the grass, Head pinned on his round arm, brown and bare, Perhaps he watched the fleets of white clouds pass. And longed to close the shoreless seas of air.

His hope came true, as in no age gone by Such heroes dream on living wings took flight. A young Bellerophon he chased the sky. And, godlike, climbed its dazzling peaks of light. Not in the pride of sport he sought that path; His country’s knight; clear-limbed, clear-eyed, he

Eager to spend her bolts of righteous wrath, Like Heaven’s own lightning on her haughty foes.

So, in one binding instant, as a leaf Whirled down to earth, a mother’s dirge. He saw fame’s chapter and his people’s grief And came, a martyr’s soul, before his God.

Se noble youths of Yankton County, need into the great beyond in their freedom, under the Star and Stripes, ages are respectfully dedicated.

The Boys enlisted at the first call. Men and sacrifice were born a spirit of com and service that will not die. County accomplished wonderful. The same spirit that carried the men into the great beyond to go with fuses everywhere volunteered to go vice amid the horrors “over there.”

by Joseph Mills Hansen

The Boys Yankton County


ice cream and sandwiches, they were swamped. One hundred people were counted in one ice cream emporium, where twenty-five is a crowd. So it went all over the city.

There did not seem to be many uniforms so vast was the crowd, but this all changed at meal call when the young soldiers lined up for chicken, plenty of it. Places were laid for 1200, a wonderfully pretty scene, at the Thompson Yards, where seventeen tables with one hundred young ladies, waited for the hungry soldiers and sailors and their ladies, and when a special table for smokers and others had been spread. At this extra table, too, sat those whose boys will never come home; here was the gold star table which cast the only shadow over as interesting scene as Yankeetown has ever witnessed.

The evening scored another success, the great pavilion dance. Broadway was packed from early in the evening until after 1:00 A.M., with everything free for all who wanted to dance. Here was real enjoyment, and it was good to look upon united ones as they mingled in the modern dances to the music of Cornett Lee Borcher, formerly of Yankeetown, and members of the Yankeetown Marine Band.

The evening showed still another success and the great cheering gave evidence of it all over town. Sergeant Leo Coacher, a leader in ring events in France, who won a great record as a fighter, promoted some local bouts that took well and were most creditable contests. In one Joe Stranisky, a very clever fighter, defeated Wallace of the Carnival, a man with forty-six knockouts to his credit. In the match between Soldier Brown defeated Cyril Black of the Carnival, who offers to take on all who offer. The fight went three rounds, with Soldier Brown winning the decision.

The soldiers were all very busy. They had their girls with them, and for the first time in their lives had a chance to enjoy a social turn, free from care. The clever champion, who could not be lifted, had all he could do, the volunteers came so thick. The strongest man being in captivity had many callers, and the refreshments stands got theirs. The grand banquet and dance were hits and the thousands of visitors prolongs the day altogether a big success.

The Men Who Served: Although South Dakota is a Western State situated in a somewhat secluded section, the spirit of patriotism began to show itself even before our Country was at War. At the President's first call for men, those of Yankeetown County sprang to arms in such numbers that it was hardly necessary to ask for additional men in the first draft.

These men of necessity, were assigned to different branches of the service. However, a large number of the Yankeetown boys were members of the 147th Field Artillery, which is considered South Dakota's own and is an example of the bravery, courage and fighting ability of all South Dakota men.

This unit arrived in France January 20, 1918, landing at La Harve. The battery was at once placed under intensive training at an artillery school, where it finished the course with such high honors that it became known as France's answer to America batteries that distinguished itself so well in the fighting line that it led the charge of the very best American batteries in action.


1st, 1918, and participated in the bat Chateau Thierry, Epiro, Roncheres.
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ped hundred people were counted in one

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when the young soldiers lined up for

plenty of it. Places were laid for

wonderfully pretty scene.

at the on

Yards, where seventeen tables

hundred young ladies, waited for the

soldiers and sailors and their ladies,

a special table for speakers and

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here was the gold star table

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Yankton has ever witnessed.

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1914. Although South Dakota

n the battle

Chateau Thierry, Epieds, Roncheres, La

Pointed, Reddy Farm, Cohan, Cornville,

Fimes and Finnette, capturing in two days

37,000 Germans and 700 cannons and

machines. In fact this model battery fought

continuously from the moment it entered the

fight until the very last moment of "the

eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the

eleventh month," and nobly its share

egypt for an armistice.

In Flanders Fields.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow

Between the crosses, row on row,

That mark our place; and in the sky

The larks still bravely singing fly.

Scarcely heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead.

Short days ago we lived, fell down, saw sun set, grew, loved and were loved, and now we lie

in Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe.

To you from failing hands we throw the

Torch—be yours to hold it high!

It ye break faith with us who die,

We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

In Flanders fields.

South Dakota has every right to be proud of

her Yankton County men.

Military History — Yankton County

Roster of World War I

The following 480 names were the boys of Yankton County, a little history of their

birthdays and discharges etc.

1st, 1918, and participated in the battle


Pvt. Lewis E. Booth, Co. Q.M., Camp Funston, Kansas. Enlisted March 30, 1918.

June 28, 1918. Discharged January 26, 1921. 
Marines, A.E.F., Germany. 


June 26, 1918. Discharged January 26, 1921. 


try, 89th Division, A.E.F.
2nd Class Seaman R.C. Harris, Great Lakes Training Station and U.S. Frigate. 
Pvt. John M. Kuboetz, 14th Cav. Troop "A", Ft. Sam Houston, U.S.A. Enlisted February 16, 1918. Discharged February 16,
1919, Born August 14, 1898.


Pvt. A.L. Grove, Recon Squadron No. 342, Q.M.C., A.E.F., France.


Anton C. Magara, Battery “F,” 12th Field Artillery, 2nd Division A.E.F., Ger-

day.


Pvt. Wlliam Kritz, Co. “C,” 313th Ammuni-

tion Train, 88th Division A.E.F. Enlisted June 13, 1918.


Pvt. Adolph Kritz, Camp Funston, Kansas. Enlisted August 30, 1918. Discharged Janu-

ary 10, 1919.


Bugler Gust Economy, Co. “L,” 97th Divi-

sion, Camp Cody, New Mexico.


and was discharged for disability at Camp Merritt, New Jersey, in January, 1918. Re-enlisted in Canadian Royal Artillery, served as Star Gunner with Canadian E.F. Discharged at Winnipeg April, 1919.


Cook James Flivers, Camp Funston, Kansas. Enlisted June 28, 1918. Discharged February 8, 1919.


Born June 10, 1881. Enlisted June 6, 1917. Candidate Harry A. Robinson, 18th Co., Central Machine Gun Officers Training School, Camp Hancock, Georgia.


Corp. Ben Schlafeli, Co. 319, Mobile Laundry Unit, Luxembourg, Germany, Army of Occupation. Born August, 1897.


listened June 6, 1917, late Harry A. Robinson, 18th Co., Machine Gun Officers Training Camp Hancock, Georgia.
Leo D. Scott, Battery "D," 147th Field Artillery, A.E.F., France. Enlisted May 31, 1917, discharged May 18, 1918, at St. Louis, Missouri.


D

These who died in the war: Top row stranj Rudolph Christiansen, Middle row L-R: H. Brandt and Alexander Gustaf.


Pvt. John Rvenson, Motor T Corps.


Sgt. Osvald G. Johnson, Ambulance
DECEASED


Pvt. Oscar S. Lokken, American Army of Occupation, Germany, Enlisted July 1, 1917.


The Yankeon County Council of Defense. L-R: Robert Ferris 1st chairman, and W.O. Walgren, 2nd chairman. The Council of Defense, under Robert Ferris and W.O. Walgren, worked under the direction of the State Council of Defense, taking many responsibilities on their shoulders. Their duties were to try all cases, settle strikes, issue building permits and to regulate prices and wages, thereby relieving the Government of many petty annoyances.


Pvt. Chris R. Branden, American Base Hospital No. 100, A.E.F., France.


Pvt. Peter A. Olson, 18th Veterinary Unit, Connors, France.


Pvt. Andrew M. Gustafson, 21st Missouri M.V. Corps and 324th Infantry, A.E.F., France.


Chief, U.S.A., A.E.F.


**Nephew A. Schoch, born 1888, at wa. 10th D.B. in the Baracks, Washington. 75th Co., 65th Depot Brigade.**

**2nd Class William H. Olseberg, N.R.R. Enlisted at Omaha June Great Lakes, from there went to D.C. 6th Infantry.**

**4th Infantry.**

**2nd infantry troop, 6th Infantry.**

**1st Class Priv. James James.**

**1st Class Fr. W. C. E. 69th Infantry, August 26, 1898, at Yankton, South Dakota. Discharged September 16, 1898, at Camp Dodge, Iowa.**

**1st Class Priv. C. E. M. 49th Infantry, October 22, 1898, at Kingsley, Iowa.**

**2nd Infantry.**

**2nd Infantry.**

**2nd Infantry.**
Battery "E" 147th Field Artillery

Yankton has long been called the Mother City of the Dakota and it was here on April 20, 1862, in front of the legislature, that Company (not Troop) A, Dakota Cavalry was sworn into service under Captain Nelson Miner. This unit served with distinction in the Indian War until May 9, 1865, and so Yankton can truthfully say it has had a unit in four wars and on border duty. Company M 2nd Dakota Infantry was formed in 1889 and after Statehood Company C of the 2nd and 1st Infantry S.D.N.G. furnished the continuity and became Company C of the 1st South Dakota Volunteer U.S. Infantry under Captain Will Gray in the Spanish-American War. Company M of the 1st, 2nd, and 4th South Dakota Infantry continued the military tradition and company M served on the Mexican border and was merged into Headquarters Battery and Battery E when the 147th F.A. was formed at Camp Greene in October, 1917. So that when Battery E was assigned to Yankton after World War I it was measurably a continuation of Battery E of the war days and on December 7th, 1941, while at sea when World War II became a reality, it alone of all the South Dakota units could claim a heritage of serving in five armed conflicts.

Membership at the time of call into federal service in November, 1940 officers 3, enlisted men 105. There were later South Dakota Selectees who joined at Ft. Ord. They are included in the following roster which was taken from the report of the Adjutant General, South Dakota for period July 1, 1940, to June 30, 1942. In some instances the record is incomplete. The soldiers remained with this unit until some other action is indicated. Selectees added at end of roll 13.

This unit became Battery E 147th F.A. on January 1, 1944.

Capt. Chester A. Beaver, was discharged on account of physical disability at Ft. Ord.

Capt. Otto C. Kahlbaum was promoted to Captain on May 21, 1941, Major May 30, 1942. He was transferred to a hospital at Milne Bay in December, 1943, and returned to the U.S. He was a Major at that time.

2nd Lieutenant Robert B. Seeley was promoted to 1st Lt. on August 27, 1941, and to Captain on February 16, 1943. Robert was transferred to the hospital at Darwin and later assigned to Base Section A, with service at Milne Bay, S. New Hebrides, where he became a Captain.

1st. Sergeant Earl C. Schleglsmich was discharged as overseas at Ft. Ord in 1941 and later recalled to service, sent to C.O.S. and commissioned in the Field Artillery and rose to rank of Captain.

Sergeant Staff Lawrence Nelson was discharged as overseas at Ft. Ord and later in service with a Field Artillery unit and arose to grade of Master Sergeant.

Sergeant Arnold F. Albrecht returned to the U.S. on rotation from Kirwina in March, 1944 as a Capek Sergeant. Richard R. Cacak was hospitalized at Noemfoor Island in September, 1944, at that time was a Sergeant. Paul A. Jacobson returned rotation from the U.S. to Kirwina in March, 1944, as a 1st Sergeant. Donald E. Perry commissioned from National Guard Reserve at home station. He returned to the U.S. on rotation from Noemfoor Island in November, 1944 as a 1st Sergeant.

Corporal Lyle H. Hammon discharged at Pt. Ord in fall of 1941 on account of dependents. Elwood F. Jorgenson discharged at Pt. Ord, on account of physical disability as a Sergeant. Donald L. Jones sent to O.C.S. from Milne Bay and commissioned in the Field Artillery. Served with 144th F.A. in SW Pacific as 2nd Lieutenant. Henry K. Johnson was transferred to the 7th Division at Ft. Ord on an account of expiration of term of service within six months. Later with the paratroops and saw service in the European Theater. Ralph R. Stoughton returned to the U.S. on rotation from Noemfoor Island in October, 1944 as a Private. Lyle A. Van Olmen was commissioned from the Banks at Pt. Ord and transferred to 2nd Bns. Headquarters continued with unit until returned to the U.S. on points as a Major (Demotion), Japan in the fall of 1945.

Privates 1st Class Francis J. Albrecht was transferred to 7th Division at Ft. Ord on account of expiration of term of service and within six months and was in Tack Corps in Italy and returned to the U.S. on points in September, 1944. Thomas F. McDonald was transferred to the 7th Division at Ft. Ord on account of term of service expiring within six months and later to the Air Corps. He was commissioned and served with 84th Squadron, 22nd Bombardier Group in SW Pacific as First Lieutenant. He returned to the U.S. in May, 1945. Ben J. Blauck left the unit as average at Ft. Ord and later in service with 77th Eng. in New Guinea and Philippine Islands and returned to the U.S. as a T/O on points in October, 1945.

Robert Blauck left the unit at Ft. Ord as overseas and later in service in Burma. William E. Beaver was transferred to 7th Division at Ft. Ord on account of expiration of term of service; within six months he was sent to O.C.S. and commissioned in the Air Corps as a 2nd Lieutenant. Steven C. Carls to the U.S. on orders from Loxon, April, 1945, as a Staff Sergeant. Elvin J. Hammon returned to the U.S. on rotation floor Island in July, 1944, as a 2nd Lieutenant. Robert J. Haney returned to the Kirwina in April, 1944, as a 5th Lieutenant H. Kiker was sent to Rockhampton and commissioned Artillery and assigned to the 4 and served with that unit in S. Elmer L. Kaminek transferred Corp to Pt. Ord and later rose Captain. Harold B. Nelson discharged as overseas at Ft. Ord recalled to service, went to commissioned in the Ordnance new service in the SW Pacific Lieutenant. Edgar D. Ollerman to the hospital at Rockhampton. Thomas H. V. Rogers transferred Division at Pt. Ord on account of service within six months and Technical Sergeant. Dale W. Whalen from the ranks at Ft. transferred to Battery D 1471 and returned to the U.S. on rotation f.P.T. as a Captain. William W. Was from Noemfoor Island on rotation ber, 1944, as a Master Sergeant.

Private Harold J. Stahr left the Ord on account of dependents service and received the Bronze outstanding service at a river Holland. Robert P. Bartow transf Bray, 147 F.A. at Ft. Ord and to No. 1 at Darwin. Harold J. Diker discharged to the chemical disposal station. William J. Cacak retu U.S. on rotation from Noemfoor July, 1944, as a T/4. Kenneth R. Discharged at Pt. Ord was at the end of enlistment at Camp. Corporal Donald H. Carlson left in fall of 1941 on account of Lieutenant E. Christensen received DeMortin, Lonz, P.I. and was in the hospital in March, 1945. He continued to serve until his death, not report when called at home was dropped as a deserter. Charles returned to the U.S. from Kirwina 1944, as a Staff Sergeant. Donald H. this soldier served as an obsc wounded, first at Batangas near later to Legasi and finally to the U.S. to the Legasi in May Sergeant.

Lester L. Cowman transferred Corps at Rockhampton and be Lieutenant and was killed while in the CBS Theater. Frank left the unit on account of death Ord in the fall of 1941. More transferred to the 7th Division a account of expiration of service months. He was sent to O.C.S. sioned in the Field Artillery and 13th F.A. in the South Pacific as a 1st Lieutenant. Grant Ferguson to the hospital at Honolulu and was discharged on account of physical. George R. Gislen sent to Brisbane and commissioned in the 32nd Division and Lieutenant at the Royal Star for meritorious conduct at Lt 1st Lieutenant. Paul A. Grosche to the 4th Division and commissioned in Infantry and served in the U.S. He was killed in action, February, 1944 as a 2nd Lieutenant.
1942. He was transferred to a tūn Mill Bay in December, 1943, and to the U.S. He was a Major at that
lieutenant Robert B. Sealey was to 1st Lt. on August 7, 1941, and
on February 10, 1942. Robert was to the hospital at Darwen and ordered to Bace Section A, with service
street, Layl, Fincher, where he
earl Carl Schlegelmich was with the Air Force. He graduated from the service, to O.C.S. and
field the Field Artillery and rose to the
sargent Lawrence Nelson was dis
sargent at Ft. Ord and later in the
field the Field Artillery Reserve Corps f Master Sergeant.
Arnold P. Alford returned to a rotation from Kirwinia in March, 1944, and was assigned to Nebel Island at Noemfoor Island in r., 1944, at that time was a Sergeant. 

cuseum returned to rotation in the Kirwinia in March, 1944, as a 1st Robert D. Perry commissioned as Ordnance Reserve at home
returned to the U.S. on rotation from
in November, 1944 as a
lyle h. Hammer discharged at fall in 1941 on account of a. Elwood F. Jorgenson discharged at the time of physical disability
unit. Donald L. Jones sent to O.C.S. in April, 1944, as a sarge
. Served with 147th F.A. on 2nd Lieutenant. Harry J. King was in his final year of the parachute service in the European theatre. 

Sturgle returned to the U.S. on
December, 1944 as a Master Sergeant.

Private Harold J. Bahr left the unit at Pt. Ord on account of
served as an observer, and was wounded, first at Batanag near Lemeny and
near Legasi in the Bilao and returned to the U.S. on April, 1945, as a Sergeant.

Clarence L. Cowman transferred to the Air Corps at Rockhampton and became a 2nd Lieutenant and was killed in flying an
Donald J. Colgan this soldier served as an observer and was wounded, first at Batanag near Lemeny and
returned to Kirwina, in the Bilao and returned to the U.S. on April, 1945, as a Sergeant.

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Brownie was transferred to the Air Force. He was
was commissioned in the Air Force in Italy as a 1st

Steven C. Carda returned to the
in Luson in April, 1945, Sergeant. Elvin J. Hammerson

replaced by a 7th Division. At Pt. Ord. He was assigned to Bace Section A, with service
street, Layl, Fincher, where he

Lawrence H. Kaiser was sent to O.C.S. at Rockhampton and commissioned in the Field Artillery and assigned to the 41st Division and served with that unit in SW Pacific. Elmer L. Kambeck transferred to the Air Corps at Pt. Ord and later rose to the rank of Captain. Harold R. Nelson discharged on account of dependents at Pt. Ord and later recalled to service, was sent to O.C.S. and commissioned in the Ordnance Corps and saw service in the SW Pacific as a LT. 

Lieutenant Edgar D. Olmaner transferred to the hospital at Rockhampton as a Corpo
n Thomas V. Rogers transferred to the 7th Division at Pt. Ord on account of expiration of service within six months and was then a Technical-Sergeant. Dale W. Szy was commissioned from the ranks at Pt. Ord and served with the 2nd Battalion D 147th Division. He was returned to the U.S. on rotation from Legasi P.I. as a Captain. Willard W. Beall returned to the hospital at Noemfoor Island on rotation in December, 1944, as a Master Sergeant.

Private Harold J. Bahr left the unit at Pt. Ord on account of dependents and later in service and received the Bronze Star for outstanding service at a river crossing in Holland. Robert F. Bartow transferred to Hq. Bay, 147th F.A. at Pt. Ord and served with the 408th Squadron as a mission pilot. He was assigned to Bace Section A, with service in Luson and returned to the U.S. on rotation from Kirwinia in March, 1944, as a Staff Sergeant.

Fred J. Kessler was commissioned in the Field at Lingayen Gulf, Philippines and received the Silver Star as a Captain. It was in the Philippines, Japan, on points in November, 1944, as a Captain. Theodore G. Kesseler returned from Noemfoor Island to rotation in the United States as a Captain. He was discharged on account of service on the island of Palau in February, 1945, and
also received the Bronze Star for service of an outstanding nature on Noemfoor Island. He returned to the U.S. on points from Legasi, P.I. in May, 1945 as a 1st Lieutenant.

Edward J. Lantoc transferred the Silver Star as a member of the party to Timor to establish gasoline dump in February, 1945, and
also received the Bronze Star for service of an outstanding nature on Noemfoor Island. He returned to the U.S. on points from Legasi, P.I. in May, 1945 as a 1st Lieutenant. Donald J. Colgan this soldier served as an observer and was wounded, first at Batanag near Lemeny and
near Legasi in the Bilao and returned to the U.S. on April, 1945, as a Sergeant.

Charles Mahan, received the Bronze Star for being a determined observer for outstanding service on Wadke-Sarmi opera
and returned from Noemfoor Island on rotation in December, 1944. John B. Luhren transferred from Noemfoor Island to the U.S. in November, 1944, as a Sergeant. Leonard R. Lobbert transferred to Bace Section A, with service in Luson and returned to the U.S. on rotation in November, 1944, as a Corporal. Verne W. Upton discharged at Home Station on physical disability.

Theodore G. Kessler returned from Noemfoor Island to rotation in the United States as a Captain. He was discharged on account of service on the island of Palau in February, 1945, and
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**South Dakota Army National Guard Area Representative**

Welcome to the Yankton National Guard: The South Dakota National Guard was born in the Civil War, its ancestors being Companies A, B, C, D, and E, Cavalry, and the organized Militia embodied at Yankton and vicinity in 1862. The first Adjutant General was Charles Boos, a merchant of Yankton and Sioux City.

In April, 1868, 8 cavalry companies were formed with Companies C, D, E, and F at Yankton County, with J.L. Kelley as Adjutant General. In December, 1884, Company E was formed at Yankton as part of the first Regiment, Capt. William A. Bentley Commanding. With statehood on November 2, 1889, the units were divided, and Company M was formed as part of the 2nd Regiment. In 1890 the Regiment was renumbered and became the 1st South Dakota Infantry with Yankton remaining as Company M. On April 23, 1898, the States National Guard Regiment volunteered en masse for the Spanish-American War. The unit spent 136 days on the line and participated in 19 actions during that time. Major General Arthur MacArthur, Division Commander and father of General Douglas MacArthur said, “The record of the South Dakota regiment has no parallel in military history as far as I know.”

In 1901 the Guard was reformed with a regiment of Infantry, and Yankton was again designated M Company and remained as such until 1917. In June, 1916, the 4th Infantry Regiment entered active duty for a period of seven months in the World War I campaign. Three months after they were mustered out they were reactivated for duty in World War II. Upon entry to duty they were reorganized and became Battery F 147th Field Artillery Regiment. They remained on the front line in Europe until the Armistice was signed on November 11, 1918. The Yankton National Guard Unit became Battery B, 2nd BN 147th Field Artillery Regiment during World War II and remained active through 1919. The unit designation remained unchanged throughout World War II, and until 1947.

On November 25, 1940, the 147th Field Artillery Regiment was ordered into active duty, and on November 29, 1941, they set sail to become the first American troops to land in Australia. From the 19th of January, 1942, until the 26th of May, 1945, the unit saw much action and was finally sent to Madison, Montana, on May 11, 1945, after 3 1/2 months of combat duty. It was from this area that the unit was sent home to the United States with CPT Donald Perry in command. The 7th of March, 1947, was the next reorganization date when the unit was redesignated Company C, 1st BN, 106th Regiment Combat Team, with CPT Donald Perry in command. The unit consisted of two lieutenants and thirty-two enlisted men. September 1, 1950, again saw the unit activated and inducted into Federal Service and sent to Alaska by the way of Fort Carson, Colorado and Fort Lawton, Washington. By the 1st of September 1952, the unit was home again. During this period from 1950 to 1959 CPTs Robert Burns, Fred Kessler, Ed Langston, Paul Jacobsen, and Clifford Hicks were commanders.

Within a few weeks after Summer Camp, 1955, the unit became Battery D, 206th FA Bn. (155 Gun). This redesignation was short lived as on October 1, 1959, the two gun Batteries one in Yankton and the other in Vermillion became the 115th Signal Co (Spit) with CPT Clifford Hicks commanding 11 officers and 266 enlisted men. On September 1, 1961, an advance party left for Fort Riley, Kansas, to prepare for the rest of the Unit which was activated to replace Active Army units who were sent overseas to Europe during the Berlin Crisis. The unit remained at Fort Riley until August 11, 1962, at which time they returned home to Yankton with CPT Robert D. Gunderson in command.

Due to equipment shortages, the unit was reorganized and redesignated Battery C: 1st BN 147th FA on January 4, 1968, with CPT Errol Johnson in command. The first Summer Camp as an Artillery unit was spent in the Badlands in 1968. The Summer Camp of 1972 turned out to be more than a training period. The unit and especially three members of the unit distinguished themselves for actions above and beyond the call of duty in rescue work and life saving, and these three individuals were decorated with the Army Commendation Medal, and the Valley Forge Cross by the State of South Dakota and the National Association of the United States. The unit itself received the South Dakota Unit Citation for Outstanding Performance of Duty during the Rapid City flood rescue and search and rescue mission.

Since January, 1968, the Battery has been under the command of CPTs Christopher L. Fortwedel, Robert Schoenfelder, Gerald Smith, Dennis Gann, Larry Melloven, Michael Hattie, Brian Hovland, William Schoenfelder, Conrad Smith, and currently Doug Kettering.

On August 30, 1976, the unit moved from its old location at the City Hall, 6th and Marion Street, to the old Enfield Station, to the new South Dakota National Guard, Veterans Memorial Armory, located at 1000 West 31st St, West Airport Road, Yankton, S.D.

With the South Dakota National Guard in Yankton, it has given many young men the opportunity to receive many of the programs made available by the National Guard.

by 1st Sgt. Howard Hrmansons
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY LINEAGE AND HONORS

147th Field Artillery

Organized in 1884-1885 as the 3rd Regiment, Dakota Militia, Dakota Territory.

(Territory of Dakota divided February 22, 1889 into North Dakota and South Dakota by Act of Congress)

Organized Militia of South Dakota redesignated 6 March 1903 as the South Dakota National Guard

Redesignated 9 September 1893 as the 1st Regiment

Moved into Federal service 12-15 May 1898 at Sioux Falls as the 1st South Dakota Volunteer Infantry; mustered out of Federal service 6 October 1899 at the Presidio of San Francisco, California

Reorganized and redesignated 1 April 1901 in the South Dakota State Guard as the 1st Regiment

2d Regiment South Dakota State Guard organized August, 1901 – August 1902

1st and 2d Regiments redesignated 17 March 1903 in the South Dakota National Guard as the 2d and 3d Regiments, respectively.

2d and 3d Regiments consolidated and redesignated 15 May 1905 as the 4th Infantry. Called into Federal service 18 June 1916; mustered into Federal service 30 June 1916 for service on the Mexican border; mustered out of Federal service 3 March 1917 at Fort Crook, Nebraska

Called into Federal service and mustered in 15 July 1917 at Aberdeen; drafted into Federal service 5 August 1917

Converted and redesignated 3 October 1917 as the 147th Field Artillery and assigned to the 41st Division

Demobilized 23 May 1919 at Camp Dodge, Iowa

Reorganized in part as the 147th Field Artillery and Federally recognized 11 May 1917 as a state-wide organization with Headquarters at Pierre (remainder of regiment reorganized as the 2d Battalion, 136th Engineer Regiment – hereafter separate lineage) (Location of Headquarters changed 1 January 1928 to Vermillion, 8 February 1938 to Rapid City, and 14 February 1939 to Sioux Falls)

Inducted into Federal service 25 November 1940 at some stations

Regiment broken up 31 December 1943 and its elements redesignated as follows:

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Corps Artillery

1st Battalion as the 50th Field Artillery Battalion

2nd Battalion as the 147th Field Artillery Battalion

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Corps Artillery, inactivated 31 May 1946 at Tokyo, Japan

50th Field Artillery Battalion inactivated 10 June 1945 at Ota Bay, New Guinea

147th Field Artillery Battalion inactivated 17 January 1946 at Ushunomuya, Japan

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1 Corps Artillery and the 260th and 147th Field Artillery Battalions consolidated, redesignated, and Federally recognized 16 February 1947 as the 147th Field Artillery Battalion in the southeastern part of the state with Headquarters at Sioux Falls

Ordered into active Federal service 1 September 1950 at Sioux Falls

(147th Field Artillery Battalion (NGUS) organized and Federally recognized 1 September 1952 in the southeastern part of the state with Headquarters at Sioux Falls)

Reorganized and redesignated 10 October 1955 as the 147th Armored Field Artillery Battalion

Released from active Federal service 10 October 1954 and reverted to state control; Federal recognition concurrently withdrawn from the 147th Field Artillery Battalion (NGUS)

Consolidated 21 October 1959 with the 298th and 642d Field Artillery Battalions (see ANEXXES 1, 2, and 3); consolidated unit redesignated and redesignated as the 147th Artillery, a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, to consist of the 1st, 3d, and 4th Howitzer Battalions (1st Howitzer Battalion ordered into active Federal service 1 October 1961; released from active Federal service 11 August 1963 and reverted to state control)

Reorganized 15 April 1963 to consist of the 1st and 3d Howitzer Battalions

Reorganized 4 January 1968 to consist of the 1st and 2d Battalions

Redesignated 1 May 1972 as the 147th Field Artillery

Annex 1

Organized in 1884 or 1885 as Company I, 2d Regiment, Dakota Militia, Dakota Territory, at Mitchell

(Territory of Dakota divided 22 February 1889 into North Dakota and South Dakota by Act of Congress)

Organized Militia of South Dakota redesignated 6 March 1903 as the South Dakota National Guard

Redesignated 9 September 1893 as Company I, 1st Regiment

Mustered out of state service by May 1888 at Mitchell

Reorganized 7 May 1901 in the South Dakota State Guard as Company D, 1st Regiment

Redesignated 17 March 1903 in the South Dakota National Guard as Company D, 2d Regiment

Reorganized 18 October 1907 in the South Dakota National Guard as Company D, 4th Regiment

Redesignated 17 December 1909 as Company F, 4th Infantry

Mustered out of state service 14 January 1914 at Mitchell

Reorganized about 1914 as Company F, 4th Infantry, at Mitchell

Called into active Federal service 18 June 1916; mustered in 30 June 1916 at Mitchell for service on the Mexican border; mustered out of Federal service 3 March 1917 at Fort Crook, Nebraska

Called into Federal service and mustered in 15 July 1917 at Mitchell; drafted into Federal service 5 August 1917

Converted and redesignated 5 October 1917 as Company F, 116th Supply Train, an element of the 41st Division

Demobilized 19 February 1919 at Camp Dix, New Jersey

Reorganized and Federally recognized 3 August 1931 as Company B, 147th Field Artillery, at Mitchell

Inducted into Federal service 26 November 1940 at Mitchell

Reorganized and redesignated 31 December 1941 as Company B, 260th Field Artillery Battalion

Inactivated 10 June 1945 at Oro Bay, New Guinea

Converted, redesignated, and Federally recognized 25 December 1946 as Company B, 116th Infantry, at Mitchell

Ordered into active Federal service 1 September 1950 at Mitchell

(Company B, 116th Infantry (NGUS) organized and Federally recognized 1 September 1952 at Mitchell)

Released from active Federal service 10 October 1954 and reverted to state control; Federal recognition concurrently withdrawn from Company B, 116th Infantry (NGUS)

Converted and redesignated 15 September 1956 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 642d Field Artillery Battalion (Organic elements organized from new and existing units)

Annex 2

Constituted 24 June 1946 in the South Dakota National Guard as Company G, 116th Infantry

Organized and Federally recognized 28 March 1952 at Mitchell

Ordered into active Federal service 1 September 1952 at Mitchell

(Company G, 116th Infantry (NGUS) organized and Federally recognized 1 September 1952 at Mitchell)

Released from active Federal service 10 October 1954 and reverted to state control; Federal recognition concurrently withdrawn from Company G, 116th Infantry (NGUS)

Converted and redesignated 15 September 1956 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 642d Field Artillery Battalion (Organic elements organized from existing units)

Annex 3

Constituted 24 June 1946 in the South Dakota National Guard as the Anti-Tank Company, 116th Infantry

Organized and Federally recognized 31 January 1947 at Webster

Reorganized and redesignated 24 February 1949 as the Tank Company, 116th Infantry

Ordered into active Federal service 1 September 1950 at Webster

(Tank Company, 116th Infantry (NGUS), organized and Federally recognized 1 September 1952 at Webster)

Released from active Federal service 10 October 1954 and reverted to state control; Federal recognition concurrently withdrawn from Tank Company, 116th Infantry (NGUS)

Converted and redesignated 15 September 1956 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 642d Field Artillery Battalion (Organic elements organized from new and existing units)

Campaign Participation Credit: Philippine Insurrection, Manilla and
YANKTON STOCKADE

The original stockade was built here in 1862. Some of the Santee Indians in western Minnesota had gone on the warpath, coming into Dakota Territory and killing a judge and his son outside Sioux Falls. Governor Jayne issued a proclamation ordering all male citizens of Dakota Territory to report to this fortress. The wall was of logs and brush and the cattle could pass through a gate in the stockade.

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The Girl of the Yankton Stockade

Yes, it's pretty, this town. And it's always been so.
We pioneers picked it for beauty, you know.

See the furrolling bluffs, mark the trees, how they hold All its streets, and, beyond, the Missouri, bank-wide, Swinging down through the bottoms. Up here on the height Is the college. Eh, sightly location? You're right!

It has grown, you may guess, since I've been here, but still It is forty-five years since I looked from this hill One morning, and saw in the stockade down there Our women and children all gathered at prayer, While we, their defenders, with muskets in rest

Lay waiting the Sioux coming out of the West They had swept Minnesota with bullet and brand Till her borders lay waste as a desert of sand, We when in Dakota awakened to find That the red food had risen and left us behind. Then we rallies to fight them — Sioux, Sissetons, all We had ravaged unchecked to the gates of Saint Paul. Is it strange, do you think, that the women took flight That morning, and prayed; that men, even, turned white.

When over the ridge where the college now looms We caught the first glitter of lances and plumes And heard the dull tramp of hoofs drawing nearer Still like the rumble of thunder low down in the sky? Such sounds wrench the nerves when there's little to see; It seemed madness to stay, it was ruin to flee.

But, handsome and fearless as Anthony Wayne, Our captain, Frank Ziebach, kept hold on the rein.
Like a bugle his voice made us stiffen and thrill —
The following is a copy of a handwritten account of an Indian attack on September 6, 1862. The account was written by John Stanage, Jr. (Taken from the "Yankton Press & Dakotan," June 13, 1863 issue.)

It was autumn, 1862. A cloudless morning. The sun's rays were brightening the eastern sky. Henry Bradley had just gone by the John Stanage cabin to the Jim River to get a pall of water. It was about two or three hundred yards from the river to the cabin. He walked briskly to the river, stepped out on the ferry boat, dipped up his pall of water, and was returning hurriedly to the cabin.

When about 50 yards from the cabin, Bradley saw the heads of Indians over the tall topmost grass. Bradley dropped the pall of water, yelled, "Stanage, the Indians are here," and bounded toward the cabin. Stanage quick and alert, grabbed his musket and flew out the door to Bradley's rescue. Just then a volley of shots were fired at Bradley but he entered the cabin unscathed. Bradley had not taken his gun with him to the river.

When Henry Bradley entered the cabin he grabbed his gun, probably a musket. Stanage said, "Henry, you take one window, I will take the other, and John Bradley, you take the door." John Bradley had no gun, so he took a pitchfork and stood ready to fight in the death if the Indians smashed the door in. It was a tense moment in the cabin.

Those that occupied the cabin were my father and mother, my sister Mary, my brother James and myself, Henry Bradley and his wife, and brother John Bradley. The Bradleys lived in a cabin about a mile and a half down the river. I think it is what is now the Will Magorin farm.

For several days scouts on swift running horses were notifying the settlers of massacre by the Indians in Minnesota and that they were traveling towards the Missouri River, murdering settlers, and stealing horses. Settlers were warned to leave their cabins and go to Yankton or where they might have the best protection.

The Bradleys had come up to my father's place the evening before, and, in company with our family they had intended to go up to the river to get the boat.

My mother, Mary, Jimmy and myself under the bed. My mother dropped on her knees and begged God to protect us all. Then my mother and Mrs. Bradley prepared to fight to the death if the Indians broke in the door. Afterwards there was another butcher knife. And then they waited - waited for the attack.

I mentioned the cabin — we all occupied one cabin that night. An Indian attack was feared. My father and Henry and John Bradley remained on guard all night.

But we had two cabins with a space of about twelve feet between them. The two cabins were one of round logs. The spaces between the logs were filled in with chunks of wood and then plastered with Jim river bottom mud. The logs were used lengthwise instead of rafters to give the roof a pitch. Then poles or rafter's were laid and over those long - but worse - was laid, and the hay was covered over with dirt. A roof covering the space between the two cabins was made the same as the roofs of the cabins. We were in the west cabin the morning of which I write. This was, when we saw them, a short way west of the cabins. My father thought maybe some of the Indians were getting east of the cabins. I heard my father say many years after that he was afraid some of the Indians would put a torch to the hay on the roof of the cabins and set the building on fire.

Again they heard the trampling of horses' feet coming from the west. They feared great numbers of Indians were gathering around. As they galloped up along the side of the log cabin, my father saw they were soldiers. "It's soldiers," my father said. A voice well known to my father said "Hello, Stanage, are you alive?"

In a moment the door was unfastened and the men folks rushed out. It was Sergeant A.M. English and I think, six cavalry men. English said they had come from Yankton. He said the Indians had been at Greenway's. Sgt. English said they would follow the Indians and the next day, the Indians were and in the meantime for my father to hitch the oxen on the wagon and for all to be ready when they returned, and they would accompany us to Yankton.

They followed the Indians to the Lakes as they called it then, but which is now about where Gayville is located. Here the Indians entered a vacant cabin. The soldiers exchanged shots with the Indians. I think there were no fatalities on either side.

My mother used to say that she could think of nothing in all her life that pleased her more than Sgt. English and his six troopers coming just as they did in the nick of time.

After holding the Indians in the cabin at the Lakes for a time, Sgt. English and his troopers returned to escort the settlers on the way back to Yankton. My father's place the oxen were hitched to the wagon and everybody was ready for the trip to Yankton. The Indians had taken my father's horses with them. Everything else — chickens, hogs, and cattle were left behind but everybody was happy and glad that day to leave the place alive. Everybody arrived at Yankton all right and became occupants of the Yankton Stockade.

The following are excerpts from the P&D (June 13, 1863): Following the Indian uprising of 1862 the abandoned settlement at Sioux Falls City remained unoccupied by whites except for a company of Iowa troops stationed at Fort Dakota, a post built by the government in 1865. This fort was maintained until 1869, when the country was thrown open.

According to historian George W. Kingsbury, it was one of the first places the Sioux used after the Sioux uprising of 1862, and from a reliable Indian source, that a large band of hostiles had gathered along the James River three or four miles northeast of Yankton early in September, 1862, and planned to attack the town, the Stockade not yet being completed on the east side, but the timely arrival of Captain Nelson Miner from Vermillion with 40 cavalrymen caused them to give up their plans, as they were unannounced.

A "wholesale" hanging took place at Manitas, Minnesota, on December 26, 1863, when 38 of the 90 members of the Santee tribe of Sioux Indians convicted as leaders of the massacre of some 80 white settlers in the uprising of that summer were executed. President Lincoln commuted the sentences of 52 of them. A monument in Shiloh Park, Mankato, marks the site of the hangings.

In July, 1863, a wandering band of hostile Indians killed five children of Mr. and Mrs. Henson Wiseman while the parents were absent from their log home in the Nebraska hills a few miles east of Yankton. The site is marked by a monument erected by the Nebraska Historical Society and is easily reached from Yankton by a good traveled road via Wyoming. Norwegian settlers in eastern Yankton County, fearing that hostile Indians had cut them off from Yankton during the Sioux uprising of 1862, made their way to the Missouri River and crossed to Nebraska in skiffs and a flat boat. They were under the leadership of Ole Sampson, and found temporary housing in four empty houses at the St. Helens settlement. Later they returned to their homes to find the hostiles had been there and killed some of their stock.

by Press & Dakotan

THE INDIAN FORTS

Lower Brule Agency, South Dakota. L. Siesm was agent for Lower Brule Indian Agency in 1892. (Give photo credit to South Dakota State Historical Society.)

Cheyenne Agency - 1899. (Give photo credit to South Dakota State Historical Society.)

Custer Battlefield - Cheyenne Chief Two Moons on Custer Hill 25th Anniversary of battle. C. 1903. (Give photo credit to South Dakota State Historical Society.)

Pt. Lincoln - South end of officers' quarters last house, where I have made an ink State Historical Society.)

Pt. Thompson. (Give photo credit to So
There are five forts connected with this extended story: Fort Randall, 75 miles above Yankton on the west side of the river; Fort Thompson on the east side and Lower Brule Agency on the west side, 155 miles from Yankton; Fort Sully on the east out-flooding, 282 miles from Yankton Fort Bennett (Cheyenne Agency) on the west out-flooding, seven miles above Fort Sully. Fort Thompson was named in honor of Colonel Clark W. Thompson who after the Sioux uprising in Minnesota forced the movement of the Minnesota Indians over to the Missouri in 1862. In the same year General Alfred Sully built the old fort, called by his name, near the present city of Pierre. Three years later this fort was given up because it wasn’t defensible and a new Fort Sully was built 30 miles up stream.

Fort Sully was the most important of these forts. It was the headache quarters for a regiment and as such played a very important role in the subsequent Indian wars. It was built on a high bank above the river, with inner dimensions of 600 by 700 feet, surrounded on three sides by a stockade lumber house where four companies and a music corps had their quarters. There were five barracks, each 20 by 120 feet, also 8 warehouses, a guard house, a jail, an ice house, a shooting gallery, a chapel, a library, a shop, nine areas that served as officers’ quarters, a bakery, a stable, and offices. There was also an artillery magazine nearby with stone walls. And much else in this “Noah’s Ark.” A year’s provisions were kept in the warehouse.

Long before this time the white man had cast his covetous eye on the virgin prairie of South Dakota. After long negotiations with the Dakota Sioux a treaty was agreed upon in Washington April 19, 1858. In this treaty the government gave up all the land between the Hix Sioux and the Missouri River, except for the reservation of some 400,000 acres in Charles Mix County. Later, in the year 1859 the law became effective by favorable vote in Congress, but the Indians (the Yanktonai Sioux) couldn’t act on their part of the bargain before the 10th of July, 1860, when the land was formally opened, and a mass of land-seekers began to stream in. In the next year there were many other agreements in which the Indians turned over their land pieces by piece with guarantees of reservations and government lands, to be occupied when they were able to provide for themselves. For the most part the Yanktonians lived up to their agreements but there were others who were quite upset by the white man’s encroachment. Sporadic outbreaks of Indians on the war path necessitated that the U.S. would provide masses of troops along the border rivers, creating forts for the quartering and provisioning of these troops. Besides being military posts the forts were also distribution points of food rations for the thousands of Indians that came each week for their portion. It is obvious that it took a large number of workers just to keep all this going. As civilians employed the immigrants found steady work here with good pay, especially for carpenters and smiths.

But this kind of work was not exactly safe employment. Life and body were not always secure at these outposts of civilization when the Indians were sometimes very restless. Nonetheless it was attractive with its dangers
and adventure possibilities, appealing no
doubt to the Viking natures of these Norsem-
ans.

The following revelation of the situation
among the Norwegian immigrants at this
time will probably create a sharper picture of
life as it was for them. Such information
comes from the (Oppdal Year Book for 1922,
Pages 8-17) these books are written in the
Norwegian language and translated for me by
B.R. Bjorn assistant pastor of Morningside
Lutheran Church, in Sioux City, Iowa from
1973 to 1976. I wish here to thank him for his
help.

The Journey in 1870

The first man from Oppdal who was up
among the forts prior to 1870 was undoubt-
edy Iver Furunes, who came from one of the
Oppdal area's best families, above the av-
erage immigrant in intelligence and pre-
paredness. In that summer that he came from
Norway in 1869, he was employed at Fort Sully
to cut firewood. The next year he was
established as a smith and wagon maker at
Fort Thompson where he received pay of $1000.

It was in the year 1870 that the first large
group of Oppdal people went to the forts. Now
follows Halvor Aune's report about a trip,
which is full of information for us. His
journey took place in the spring of 1870, the
year after he came from the old country, and
in and around Sioux City there was no work to
be found by hardly anyone, but the Oppdal
young men heard from some soldiers that the
forts would be good places for them to
investigate. They heard also that it wasn't too
safe up there because of the Indians, but
that didn't seem to frighten them too much.

Together with Sivert Mjøen, Kristoffer
and Sivert Haaker and his brother Ole Lee,
Hafler set out on foot to go to Marindal first
in Yankton County where many of his
acquaintances from Oppdal had filed claim
for homesteads. (Note: Ole Haaker had
changed his name to Ole Lee on coming to the
U.S.) First they helped Iver Furunes set
everything in order at his little house. Then
they went to Yankton where they met several
other young men ready to go. One of them, Ole
Hjelle from Ytreland, was furnished with a
sack of oaten with a wagon, along with everything
that goes with it, which he wanted to sell to the
group. Since most of the men had more
courage than money, Iver Furunes cautioned
them against the purchase. He pointed out
that the oaten was indeed old, with hardly a
tooth left in its mouth. But they bought
them anyway. Buying as much food and
provision for themselves and the animals as
the conveyance would hold, the canoe
began its journey across their prairie.
Other people from Oppdal beside those mentioned
were: Ingebrigt Mjøen, Thomas Berg, John
Sliper and Ingebrigt Sætrum. At Fort Ran-
dall Ole Hjelle and two others decided to stay,
but the rest of them continued their long trip
to the prairies toward Fort Thompson.
About 25 miles away they met two men who
were driving in a spring wagon. One of them
asked if they were looking for work. He said
that he had a contract with the government to
delivery 900 cord of wood for which he
would pay $2.00 a cord when delivered. Yes,
the work they would gladly take, but the men
would have to buy their own oaten and wagon.
The wagon he could use, but he had no desire for
the ancient oaten. The travellers stood by
their bargain, and finally the deal was made.
Their employer turned out to be a French-
man, Proseaux by name, and evidently he
really wanted these stalwart young Norwe-
gians to work for him. The wood they were
in the spring wood, which they were to
chop into proper size, was in a groove near the
Lower Brule Agency. They got a log house to
sleep in and a lazy poor-quality Negro for a
cook. Everyone got sick on the cooking. Sivert
Haaker got so weak that he had to use a cane

Pt. Sully looking west 1883. (Give phot

On the Big Sioux River – near Trent, S.
Journey in 1870

A man from Oppdal who was up to the forts prior to 1870 was undeniablyme, who came from one of the area's best families, above the 875 man in intelligence and pre-

In the summer that he came from 1869, he was employed at Fort Sully on the Red River, and the next year he was 875 man in ivory and wagon maker at Fort Pierre, where he received pay of 875.

In the year 1870 that the first large land sale took place in frontier territory, it is known from Alvar Aune's report about a man that he was full of information. His report was made in the spring of 1870, when he came from the old country. In 875, there was no work to be had, hardly anyone, but the Oppdal man heard from some soldiers that the land was good for them to settle on. They heard also that it wasn't too far because of the Indians, but that they would have to be cautious. With Sivert Mjøen, Kristoffer and his brother Ole, they went on foot to the Fort Totten area in northern Minnesota where many of their friends had moved from Oppdal and had filed claim statements.

(Note: Ole Haaker had a name connection with Ole Lee.) On coming to the place, they helped Iver Furunes settle in order to live in a house. Then they went to Yankton where they met several more men ready to go. One of them was from Sundal, Norway, a partner in a business, who was going to a place where they had heard it was good for whites to settle.

They obtained work with the Indians, and were placed in the pay of the Northern Pacific Railroad. They worked on the road and were paid well. They were able to save money, and were able to settle in the new country. They were able to save money, and were able to settle in the new country. They were able to save money, and were able to settle in the new country. They were able to save money, and were able to settle in the new country.

On the Big Sioux River - near Trent, South Dakota.

P. Bennett - (1870-1891) in the late 1890's. The old Cheyenne River Agency No. 1 may be seen in the middle background. The site of this old military post and Indian Agency will be inundated. (Give photo credit to South Dakota State Historical Society.)

P. Sully looking west 1883. (Give photo credit to South Dakota State Historical Society.)

F. Haavard, who was in the kitchen and gave the cook a severe tongue lashing that seemed to help for a little while.

When the wood was ready, the Frenchman invited them over to his ranch house where they were to stay up in a log house. The one and only was a kind of a shop, the other a food storage area. It was in this part of the building that the men were to bed down the night. The moon shone so brightly that it was quite light outside. They had been lying there about an hour when they heard a loud noise in the shop part of the building; it sounded like someone was getting a severe beating. Halvor stood up to see what was going on. He saw the Boss who was drunk and his "woman" by the hair and throw her in a heap out on the yard. Then he saw him go in again and bring out a seven or eight year old girl, throwing her out in the same fashion as her mother. "He has surely made a house-cleaning, to be sure," whispered Halvor. But Thomas Berg, a big man with red hair, cried like a baby and stumbled.

"They would be surprised in Oppdal if they knew what kind of people we are among here." About an hour later the noise began inside the shop. Prodean suddenly came out rushing into the place where the Norwegians were and before anyone could stop him he grabbed Ingebrigtsen's arm. Halvor got up and ran towards the house with Prodean hot on his heels. He raised the gun and shot him in the left heel so that he stumbled to the ground and lay still. Prodean turned around and went to the Norwegians without any comment. In the morning he was sober again and told them in normal fashion, as if nothing had happened. The next morning the men continued to Fort Thompson. Many of them obtained work there immediately, others later. Iver Furunes, according to the ethnographical sketch in the year book of 1921-22, made the trip to the fort to become a smith and wagon maker. Halvor Aune reports that Furunes was one of the group that hired a half-breved at a cost of $5.00 each to drive them 100 miles up to Fort Sully. The most reliable report is obviously the one that Furunes himself brings. Halvor's fantasy was so lively that he was in danger of romanticizing when there was a gap in his memory. Or if he brought to life the story he had been telling a bit dull, he could find ways to color it up a little. But Halvor and Ole (Aune) Lee, Ingebrigtsen and Sivert Mjøen were without doubt among those who went further to Fort Sully. After proceeding some 35 miles, they came to a stopping place where they inquired if they could get something to eat. Here was another Norwegian whose wife or house-keeper was an Indian's daughter. Quite often in these parts one observed this kind of a pair. "She poured out some kind of stew into tin cups for us," said Halvor, "as we sat on a blanket. She kept up a steady pace as she went back and forth to the big pot, filling up our cups." So we ate," continued Halvor, "while we said that it was some kind of meat. She was cooking it when they came, continued all the time they were there and was still doing it when they left. The men studied it and wondered what kind of meat it was. The next day we heard that we had eaten. "We paid 50 cents for the meat each and were a little worried about what we had eaten. Six months later we found out that she had served us dog." Halvor concluded.
we came to Fort Sully we learned that there had been a fight just prior to our coming, between a musician and a soldier. The latter had received a wound from a butcher knife. The house where the struggle had taken place looked like a slaughter house; blood had spurted way up to the ceiling. No one had as yet made any attempt to clean up the place. There was no work to be had at Fort Sully immediately, but they were told that if they would wait there would be some kind of a contract available from the government. One Captain Stanly needed two men in the building and would like to have had the Aune brothers, but they would have to sign up for five years which they were unwilling to do. In a few days, however, came a contract by which they were employed a whole year (1870-71) with Halvor as a driver and Ole as a stable man. They lived in a log house out in the woods and had a Black man as a cook. He had been a cook in San Francisco and produced the finest meals, each of the brothers became as fat as bears by the time spring came around. One day when they came in at noon they saw a comical sight. One of their fellow workers from the eastern part of the country who was called "Long George", he and the cook had not been friends and on this particular day when they came in, they saw George take the cook and set him on his head in the flour barrel so that the cool-black Negro came out white as wool.

Once they met an Indian pair, a man and a woman. She was leading a pony and he followed carrying a musket. On each side of the saddle was fastened a pole, and at the end of the pole was a string on which hung a dying or dead child in it. They knew that at the death of the child the father would shoot the horse and provide a weapon so that the child would have both in the "happy hunting grounds". In the spring they journeyed down to Yankton County again. They got a ride with a man and a boy who each with a team of horses had transported freight to Deadwood in the Black Hills and had frozen their feet terribly.

A month or so later they received a letter from the "how" up north announcing that the two men, Halvor and Ole, could come back to work again. To save their money they set out for a destination three hundred miles away.

The Journey to the Forts in 1871

"One evening we came to a stopping place," continued Halvor, "where a Frenchman who lived with a squaw sold brandy. It cost 25 cents a glass, and one had to pay before he could drink a glass. He gave his fingers - this was no credit card here. By this time we were foot-sore and decided that we had to spend the night at this place. Wash your feet well, here he says," told the inn-keeper. When we had done this he came again with a large basin and a red rag and wiped our feet - never in our life saw our feet in this to how. When we went, I said to Ole, "This is going to be pretty costly."

But the feet were in bad shape so we proceeded with the foot washing. Then we rested well and our feet were more improved a great deal. We began to wonder where he would throw out the whiskey and watched carefully. But he didn't throw it out he poured it back into crock. Then the people began to pay dearly for our foot-washing whiskey again. In the morning we paid for our supper bed and breakfast. It came to one dollar and a half each for us. "But, what about that foot-remedy you gave us? How much for that?"

"Nothing," replied. So we started out on our journey again. We couldn't help but remark that we had done well here in America. The next day we came to a stopping place that also belonged to a Frenchman. As we drew near to the place we heard and saw a Red Skin pounding on a drum, leaping about and screeching loudly. Then we noticed a dead man on the ground covered with a cloth. We found out that the man had been the owner of the place. The evening before some cowboys from the other side of the river had been sitting there playing cards, meanwhile drinking heavily. After they had been drinking for awhile they had forgotten to pay for their drinks, whereupon the innkeeper asked them to pay what they owed. "Here it is in cash," was the answer he got as the drunk man pulled a revolver out of his belt and shot the innkeeper through the head.

This didn't seem to be a good place to lodge, thought the brothers, so they continued their walking until they came to a ravine where they bedded down for the night. When they wakened in the morning there was a rattlesnake sleeping where they had been lying, but they were none the worse for the experience.

When they came to Fort Sully there were no contracts available so they were free until some should come. Rather than wait here with nothing to do, they decided to go to the Cheyenne Fort first just to try their luck.

There they got a job in the provisions department, carrying supplies to a large stock.

Life at the Forts

Every agent at a fort made his own impression on the place, making the work there either attractive or unattractive. He was either personally representative of Uncle Sam and used his power accordingly. If he were a good and honorable person like the northerner, John G. Gauvin, at Fort Thompson or Bingham at Fort Bennett, then the people came to work at these places in great numbers, and the country was filled with primitive conditions. But if he were a person like Livingston at Fort Sully or Kozes at Fort Cheyenne, both of whom misused their positions of trust and practiced deception, the people were not received with open hands where one would hesitate to seek employment; Sivert Haakon's tragic end was brought on by H.F. Livingston's villainy. Because there were no opposing rumors about this dishonest business perhaps the facts ought to be told here.

An agent was forbidden by the government to hold for himself the several contracts he had at his disposal, inclusive of those for hay and feed, grain, and flour. In one instance he had private parties in turn would hire Natives, Livingston with the idea of carrying out the contract himself would employ the worst kind of tactics to get the workers themselves to sign the government contract. So it was that Sivert Haaker who didn't understand English very well, was asked by his agent to sign a contract that he should write his name on the contract that Livingston set before him. He thus became the contractor on paper whereas he was only one of the laborers. But rumors of this practice came to higher authorities, and a detective was sent to Fort Thompson to investigate. He discovered that Sivert was but a laborer and not a contractor. Poor Sivert denied that he had anything to do with the contracting, but he couldn't clear himself. The detective pressed him sorely, threatening him with prison if he couldn't confess his crime. Immediately Sivert went to his room and shot himself. Livingston got out of it that time, but it wasn't long before he was replaced as an agent. If "I" (Halvor) am not mistaken he was later condemned for another swindle.

About T.M. Koon, who was agent at Cheyenne the first time Halvor came there, many stories can be told. He remembered the log house they lived in was crawling with all kinds of insects, and that the food was black coffee and meat at this meal and black coffee at the next. The bread, he said, was so hard that one could have shinned on it with a razor.

When the animals were to be brought into the stable, mentioned above as one that the Aune Brothers had helped build, it developed that Koons had forgotten to provide the hay necessary for the winter. He had neglected to arrange for a contract for it and now was confined at the post. General Covell went to the Norwegians and asked what could be done in this emergency. Ole and Halvor suggested that the tall, dry prairie grass around the fort should be cut, that it should be ground up finely and then mixed with corn meal in water. This advice was followed, and the two men were given the responsibility of making the bread. The prairie bread was to be the stable night and day, a place not very habitable for humans. "This won't do," Halvor said. "We'll quit." Then a few carpenters came and provided a room for them, but they couldn't get the window or stove in it. So a window was provided, just a little hole some eight inches square. But no stove was provided. "Perhaps you want to burn down the whole stable?" asked in derision. "All right," they replied, "You tell Koons to give us some satisfaction, or we are really going to quit." Then it was the general himself who ordered the stove.

Sugar was parcelled out to the workers in small quantities so they had to carry it to their meals. But the portions were too small, they thought. The man who was in charge of the warehouse was willing to be bribed with a little tobacco in exchange for the extra sugar. Even the Mother's Best Boys in those days. Halvor said.

During the summer months a steamship brought great quantities of provisions. There were some 7000 Indians who lived in reservations on the little allotments at Cheyenne. Some of the Indians were employed in carrying the provisions from the ships to the fort. First they filled the warehouse with meat, flour, coffee, and sugar; then they got into the little rowboats and working outside of the warehouse and covered with a tarpaulin. When some of the men of the fort were to get flour inside the building, they were careless and let some of it tumble down from the roof. The Indians who were necessary to wedge through the white flour. Then they shipped the provisions below Fort Thompson. It was the mission of the men when they came, with a drinking game, and they sought their beds as soon as a could. But the noise continued and culled in the air and I received a stab wound in his breast a dying on the ground outside. No one a
The next day another boat came with more supplies. On this boat was a well-dressed man who went around the premises, looking at things but saying very little. Finally he asked who the agent was. When the stranger for an agent he asked, "Is this the place you take care of the responsibility entrusted to you here?"

"Who are you?" asked Koos.

I am an inspector from Washington. At the end of the month we won't have any use for you anymore."

"That was the last of Koos at this fort."

His successor, Captain H. Bingham, who had his family with him, was a good man and an excellent supervisor of the work. Halvor received permission to bring his wife over from Norway; with her came his sister Mrs. Ingeborg (later Mrs. Tore Hoxsey). Mrs. Aune worked for three months for the government and earned $100. Now they had their own house, had the privilege of cutting their own wood, had a supply of ice in the summer and enjoyed their new circumstance. Instead Mrs. Aune became a housekeeper for the home of Captain Bingham. She remained there three years. In 1876, when she journeyed to Ole's Lee's homestead to become a housekeeper for him, Halvor and his wife moved south in 1874, taking a homestead where the Trondhjem Church now stands. Ole came a year later.

Conduct Toward the Indians

Many reports about difficulties with the Indians in the territories around the forts are available. The early blanket trade was brisk, and many of the Indians were given the responsibility of selling it. Their work demanded that they be present at the fort at all times and men were given the responsibility of guarding it. Their work demanded that they be present at the fort at all times and men were given the responsibility of guarding it. Their work demanded that they be present at the fort at all times and men were given the responsibility of guarding it. Their work demanded that they be present at the fort at all times and men were given the responsibility of guarding it. Their work demanded that they be present at the fort at all times and men were given the responsibility of guarding it. Their work demanded that they be present at the fort at all times and men were given the responsibility of guarding it. 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roll. But for one unacquainted with Norwegian names there was much confusion. The results also show what the foreigners were up against in the new land. In the reports that Kouns made out at the Cheyenne agency he said that the Norwegians were born in Germany. Evidently Aune’s characterization of him as a “dumb-bend” wasn’t so far off. Also the names were spelled wrongly: Ingebright Sivertsen (Mjøen) became Emry Sivartaa, Emrit Sivertsson and Roset Sivertson the three times he was reported as the stable base at Lower Brule Agency; Iver Iversen Bierke became Josee Joerson Bierke; Stengrim Detli who succeeded Iver Furunes as the smith at Fort Thompson was reported as Stengrim Deth and Detli Stengrim; Esten Dorum was reported as E. Demeni by Kouns, but two years later at the Crow Creek Agency he was called Elsen Barum; and Halvor Hovle was written down as W. Hovly by Kouns.

These reports show how necessary it is for Norwegian Americans to make attempts to establish their country-men’s contributions to American life. The Norwegian-American association such as Oppdal-laget and especially the Norwegian American Historical Association are making fine contributions in this area with their literature. But there is just one BIG problem these writings are written in the Norwegian language and their are very few who in this year 1986, that have a command of both the English and Norwegian languages that are able to translate these books. Most of the Norwegian descendants no longer are able to read or speak the Norwegian fluently. Oh, they know a few words but are not well versed language students.

by Constance Fagerhaug

THE SCHOOLS DO THEIR PART DURING WAR


Capt. Traen.

Yankton College had a contract | training unit known as Civil Pilot Program 1940 to 1943 and Civil Administration War Training Serv with the units, varying from 60 to a of 153 men. A total of 653 men trained. This program ran on its o nie independently of the resu program. The members of this unit all the courses except code, convert selves into instructors for such as Navigation, Aircraft Engines, and Recognition.

by Mrs. Harland D

(More photos follow)
Yadkin College had a contract for a Navy Training Unit in 1941, a part of the Navy's Manpower Training Program. This program was expected to include training in various fields, including aviation. The role of the faculty was crucial in the success of the program. The students were divided into different programs for each field, such as Navigation, Aircraft Engines, and Aircraft. The program was designed to prepare students for careers in the military and related fields.

(More photos follow)
Western Union telegram. December 10, 1918.

A telegram from Washington, D.C., to a recipient in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, dated December 10, 1918, reads:

Dear Mr. Lawrence Brown,

Deeply regret to inform you that it is officially reported that Private August Lawrence Brown was severely wounded in action Nov. 11th. No further information when received.

Yours truly,
Adjutant General

9:20 PM

Marine Color Guard with Joe Foss in Center taken in Yankton, C. 1944.

The 14th Field Artillery World War

DIARY OF THE C
WAR

Edwin Peabody Fitch wrote his diary based on his diary of the Civil War. He gathered other recollections in 1906. They were published a half century later as a family history. His daughter, Maud E. Fitch, included his writings for her brothers, Lieut. John E. and John Fitch. These copies are in the collection of Yankton and elsewhere.

It wasn't until 1976 that five years later that five of his grandchildren decided to have them published in book form. These grandchildren...
DIARY OF THE CIVIL WAR

Edwin Peabody Fitch wrote his memoirs based on his diary of the Civil War era and other recollections in 1938. They were published a half century later as a family project. His daughter, Madge E. Fitch, made copies of his writings for her brothers, George, Fred, and John Fitch. These copies followed relatives to Yankton and elsewhere.

It wasn't until 1976 that five grandchildren decided to have them published in permanent form. These grandchildren were Faith Hill, Rhinebeck, New York, and Jean Fitch Rockwell, Sooke, British Columbia, daughters of John Andrew Fitch; Edwin McAllister Fitch, McLean, Virginia, Biavangil Fitch Mako, Portland, Oregon, and Francis Fitch Breuckmann, Berlin, Maryland, children of George William Fitch.

Other grandchildren included Margaret Fitch Lewis, Catherine Fitch Tracht, Dorothy Fitch, all of Corona, California, and Richard Fitch, Livermore, California, children of Fred Charles Fitch, and Estelle Andrews MacGregor, San Diego, daughter of Mae Fitch Andrews.

A granddaughter, Jean Rockwell, did the illustrations, and Cindy Collier, Portland, Oregon, provided calligraphy.

The author lived 65 percent of his life growing up along with the United States. He went to Dakota Territory as a pioneer where he dug a cellar for the house he was to live in.

It was the continuous urging from a son, John Andrew Fitch, which spurred his father to write his story which he spread out over 16 months in 1861. He died before they were completed.

Fitch grew up on a farm near South Bridgton, Maine. When he was a little past 16, his father took the oxen and sled and traveled down the road after wood like he had done dozens of times before. But, this time the sled hit a tree which toppled and broke, part of it striking the father. The injury proved fatal.

The Fitch farm was self-supporting because they sold livestock, potatoes, and apples. Only a little had to be purchased like tea, coffee, sugar, and salt. His mother's famous cheese was sold to a merchant, Sheep, milk cows, pigs, chickens, and geese kept the family busy.

Candles were made in lots of 100 dozen. They used 300 candles per year.

Children in the Fitch household carried their lunch to school in calico bags instead of pails. The tops of the bags were closed by pulling a string. It was handy to slide the string loop over the wrist which left the hands free for throwing stones.

School was held two terms, three months during the winter and three in the summer. It cost $2.50 per student each month. When he was 19, Fitch began teaching for $14 a month, and the following year, he received a $20 raise.

In the spring of 1861, Fitch decided to go to Bridgton Academy. He stayed there until Lincoln called for volunteers. He was 21.

The soldiers were paid $11 per month. Fitch went to Fort Preble to form a regiment of a regiment of a regiment. Men drilled twice a day and stayed in endless rows of tents. Each contained straw ticks and blankets.

Fitch learned to push ahead in the chow line to get his rations from the cook. Breakfast was boiled porridge, bread, and coffee.

One night he went into the tent and found a man sleeping on his tick. He tried to get him to leave, but the man clung to the tick. Finally, he had to share the tick.

Fitch's regiment was the First Maine Volunteers. One of the first things they fought was the measles. Fitch was sick 11 days and was fed a constant diet of beef tea.

When the epidemic of measles wore off, it took about ten days to get the men into shape. Fitch had his first ride on a train. People in every city and village turned out to greet them, and the soldiers looked upon themselves as heroes until they came to Baltimore.

Here, a band of Rebels were attacking trains enroute to the Washington area. Two soldiers were killed in the riot. The train was halted, and the men hurried into formation, but the hostiles didn't press ahead with their attack.

Washington was a disappointment to Fitch. It was composed of cheaply built structures without style. Fitch was impressed by the carpet in the White House, but the chairs were plain just like any home. The city was low and dirty and muddy after a rain. There were no crossings. Hogs, cattle, and goats roamed in the streets, and it was just a one-horse city. Mud was two inches deep in
Abraham Van Os was a member of the Minnesota Cavalry in the Indian Wars of 1862-64 and settled at Vankortia in 1864 in the area of the James River near LeBaron, later called Mason Hill. He served in the Territorial Councils of 1865, 1866, 1889, and House of 1874, 1881, and 1885 and in the State House of Representatives in 1890 and 1897. He wrote "Historic Land Marks of the West." He was a candidate for Lt. Gov. on an Independent ticket in 1890 and for Governor in 1892.

The regiment arrived in camp, it rained heavily. Water was undrained in camp, and there was no place to sleep but on a tent. Yet, Col. Jackson made the men do regimental drill through mud and water. It was a welcome relief when the colonel got drunk on "bean water," and couldn't drill them.

A rumor flew through camp one day that Jeff Davis was only a few miles from Arlington, but it was untrue. Yet, the excitement caused an alarm. For target practice, a likeness of Jeff Davis was set up, and he was hit by 21 bullets.

Flies were particularly bad. The soldiers put gunpowder on the floor, surrounded it with sugar and set fire to it. With all that work, only one fly was killed and another wounded.

Sunday was different in camp than it was in the quiet country town from which Fitch came. He expresses it patently this way: "How many times have I walked out in the fields on a still Sabbath morning and listened to the church bell. There is a feeling which draws our minds from the earth with an irresistible force which compels us for a short time at least to think of things more pure than this earth affords."

"How I should like to spend the day in Maine and hear our old church bell once more, and listen to a good sermon in the old meeting house."

A few days after the Fourth of July, the meet in camp threw off a stench from the hot sun, and the men feared it would start choleras.

In July, the first battle of Bull Run took place near the Potomac. The regiment wasn't ordered out. Instead, a few days later, the first call men were mustered out and sent back to Maine.

When they arrived home, the men pretended they had been in the thick of battle. Fitch had earned $33 for three months' voluntary duty.

On May 3, 1862, Fitch re-enlisted for two years. He was sent to Maryland. Some of the soldiers liked to go out to the plantations and listen to the slaves sing as they hopped corn.

May 15, 1862, Fitch was at Winchester. He was ordered to take a patrol out two miles to stop anyone from bringing in whiskey. People he met said Stonewall Jackson was 50 miles up the valley with a large force driving Gen. Banks with his little army of less than 10,000 men.

Merchants were packing goods and getting ready to flee which irritated Fitch, who thought his regiment would push the enemy back and save the city.

Next day Fitch experienced his first skirmish with Rebels. They were forced to retire, and in doing so, he stepped into a hole and turned his ankle. There was a wheat field nearby, so he limped 150 feet into it and hid. He fell asleep and hours later awakened refreshed. It was quiet so he began walking.

He came to a deserted farm, ransacked the house for bread and milked one of the cows. He ate and filled his canteen with milk and left.

About midnight, he saw a camp. He approached it on hands and knees. It was a Rebel camp. He crawled away.

At daybreak, he saw a horse with military trappings. He thought it was his lieutenant colonel's horse, but as he approached, he found it was the Rebel cavalry. He managed to sneak away and saw a civilian herding cows to pasture. He asked the direction to the Union forces.

He didn't trust the man, so circled instead through a clover field. He saw a group of horsemen, who didn't look like his outfit, so he hid in the grass.

The horsemen passed, but they saw him. He was taken prisoner and returned to the house. He was given a meal. He was told the hider talked on him. Another man was captured also.

They were kept prisoner ten days. Later, they were marched south. It began to rain, and they were muddy. There was no ration for 36 hours. Finally, they were given bread for breakfast.

It continued to rain hard. At one time, the march was 88 miles in 72 hours. They marched from Winchester, Virginia and then to Richmond (Belle Isle).

After a stay of several days, the prisoners were paroled and sent to Annapolis.
While he was in Lynchburg, his regiment was engaged in the Battle at Cedar Creek, Shenandoah Valley, and the loss of life was heavy.

After Pitch was discharged from the army, he returned home and married his childhood sweetheart.

by Ellen Tobin

COMPANY "M"

587

God-speed to Company "M". Whole community turned out to bid Company "M" good luck - to come back victorious.

Lieut. J.D. McCoun of Company "M" said on behalf of his comrades at the farewell meeting of the company held in the College Place last Thursday, that each man in the company was "going to do his bit," and that seemed to be the sentiment of all those present. Each person had the feeling that Yankeetown's boys were going out to meet the terrible enemy and was to bring back victory.

The chapel was filled to its capacity with one hundred fifteen men from Company M, two hundred high school students and two hundred college people and friends. Company M had honor positions at the front of the chapel, and around them was arranged the high school students and the college people.

The chapel was patriotically decorated with large American flags, and this with "America" sung most enthusiastically by the entire audience standing in honor of Company M made a scene long to be remembered by those who felt rather sad over the departure of the soldier boys.

President Warren then introduced the speakers. Prof. Pittfield of the college opened, assuring the men that they were not invited there primarily to be looked at, though it gave confidence to all to see the soldiers America is turning out, they were invited because Yankeetown was proud of them and wanted them to know this, and the gratitude and even envy they felt of them — and the feeling that Company M would always remain uppermost in the minds of Yankeetown people, as "ours."

Lieut. Colonel Howard Warren said within two months the chances were that Company M would be in its present shape no more — the old Civil War plan of individual units has passed, and the men might be scattered in many parts of the country, but they would remember the farewell of Yankeetown and the fact that they were representing the home folks.

Vice President Durand followed saying that this was a time of personal good-byes, from Yankeetown County people who had no relatives in the company as well as those who had, and was no more abstract for any member of the company under Joe Hansen, as his friends knew their captain. Lieut. J.D. McCoun said the company approached the God-speed and farewell of the people here, and expected to do everything possible to prepare themselves to put in the blow when the time comes. It is no enemy America must fight, said he, and we must be more efficient than the Central Powers of Europe, but "If I know these soldiers and know American spirit, when we come back we are going to bring victory with us."

Superintendent Harmon of the city schools said he knew this to be a solemn occasion, but not one for melancholy. He said we would expect great things of Company M, and wanted them to take no medals for small things aimed to be like the Tommies who brought in 150 men alone. He pointed out German atrocity and underhand dealings, and urged the men to stamp them out; and after speaking a word for the soldiers of the defenders who stay at home, he closed with the wish that property of loyal Americans might be confiscated for the use of the soldiers fighting for their country — and from the applause of his hearers it seemed that the audience agreed with him.

Capt. Joseph Mills Hanson then rose, starting hearty applause from the audience. He said the men had appreciated these five months of drill and marching amongst home folks, and believed they would hold it when in actual war, and show themselves able to strike the death blow to militarism and autocracy. "If we are to fall in that conflict, it is all right," he said, simply expressing the feeling of all his men, who nevertheless expect to come back to the end.

President Warren closed the chapel meeting, saying that sometimes in God's world war seems the minister of justice, the defender of the weak and a means of forwarding good. He then read a prayer for the warring nations, and the demonstration was closed with the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner."

The soldiers marched down town their colors unfurled by the Yankeetown band and brought up by President Warren and United States Senator R.S. Johnson, and accompanied by the high school people. They went to the Congregational Church, where the soldiers, band and members of the Commercial club made away with a mighty fine meal.

The final act of the departure of Company M took place last Friday when the entire company with kits and baggage entrained for

United States of America Depart. of the Interior Bureau of Pensions.
ill-fitting windows of the unheated houses; it was a terrifying experience for Elizabeth Custer, and in her book, "Roots and Suds," she wrote: "During the night ... I found the servants preying open the frozen and snow-covered door, to admit half-drown soldiers, who became bewildered by the snow, had been saved by the faint light we had placed in the window. After several came, and two were badly frozen. We were in despair of finding any way of warming them, as there was no bedding; and, of course, no fire, until I remembered the carpets ... which we were not to use until the garrison was reached. Spreading them out, we had enough to roll up each warchaser as he came.

The more weather-wise Yanktonians orga- nized rescue parties to find the women and children along "Suds Row," as the lam- bassade's area was called. Fortunately, all were saved, including a newborn baby. The storm, lasting until the second day, rumbled snow into enormous drifts, but because of the cooperation of the local citizenry, a major disaster was averted.

When the weather had improved and order restored, General Custer called a meeting of the Seventh's officers to prepare a resolution which read in part: "Whereas, in this terrible emergency and when in a condition of comparative helplessness, and when, without assistance, a large portion of the lives of this command must have been lost, by exposure, the citizens of Yankton, in concert and harmony with the territorial officers, hastened to the relief of this command, and in the hospitalization of their homes, the freedom and assistance of this legislature and other public halls, to the officers and men of the Seventh Cavalry, and by granting the same that shelters, workshops, and all possible food as shelters for their horses, they undoubtedly saved the lives of a great number belong- ing to this command, besides saving to the government the value of the public animals amounting to many thousand dollars; therefore, it be, Resolved, That in acknowl- edging this noble generosity, the un- bounded and universal hospitality, the un- varying and constantly repeated kindness with which every member of this command was treated ... we desire in this feeble manner to convey to you our heartfelt and lifelong gratitude for extending the helping hand to us in our hour of need ..."

Yankton did more than provide: the Seventh Cavalry out of the snow; it staged a grand reception and ball for the officers and their ladies in the lamp-lit frontier splendor of Stone's Hall on the northeast corner of Third and Capitol. Earlier the celebrations had been guests of D.S. Warren of the St. Charles Hotel just across the street for a lavish supper (by pioneer standards). Music for the dance, in what was then the town's largest hall, was furnished by a group of Yanktonians headed by Felix Villiet Vinatieri, a two-foot, five-inch, two-armed hunchback. The band played all evening till April 24 - General Custer talked into re-enlisting to head up the ajudant Seventh Cavalry band.

Actually, the Custer visitation was merely another tribute to Yankton's hospitality - a particular significance except that it created a continuing local interest in the regiment's future. Very few of these personages had been created (especially during the storm) - and three years later many honest tears were

by Robert F. Karolevitz

FIRST DAKOTA CAVALRY COMPANY "A"

A.M. England, who was first sergeant of Company A, First Dakota Cavalry in 1865, described Yankton's stockade events in his memoirs.

The following are quotations taken from his papers presented many years ago to the "Press and Dakota" interregnum with condolences of events of this period.

"We were attacked by a band of Sioux under command of some of the officers of the army, the forage for the animals and the unit's gear went aboard the steamboat "Miner" for the long journey to the upper country. Like the massive snow of the springtime blizzard, the Seventh Cavalry melted away, and Yanktonians returned to their normal pursuits and interests.

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of Indians arose from the grass and fired shots but missed Greenway. The ferryman was alert and fired back as did the couriers. Mrs. Greenway was hurried onto a flatboat and rushed across the James by her husband. One of the soldiers rode to camp for help. He reported to Sgt. English, who ordered a squad of his “Coyotes” to pursue the rebels, who were by then terrorizing settlers in the entire area.

Among frontiersmen bothered by hostiles were John Stanage’s place where two ponies were stolen and Henry Bradley’s farm where balls were lodged in logs above the doorway. Cousin Buret and John “Old Dakota” LaPre, 80, prevented the Indians from taking their ponies by determinedly firing guns and shouting to the invaders.

The A.M. English squadron overtook the marauders who were taking refuge on a farm located where Gayville now stands. A skirmish, a show of strength which was the turning point in the War of the Uprising here, lasted about an hour. One Indian was killed, and others hid in the soft slough area and retreated in the tall grass.

As the soldiers returned to Yankton, they saw war parties signalling by mirrors from hills to bottomsland. Some settlers counted 30 Indians in one of these parties. All pioneers were escorted to Yankton, and English’s detachment also moved into town setting up camp near the river bank on the west side of Bremer.

It was learned later that the Minnesota Santee Sioux had convinced the Yankton Sioux to join them in their attack on the entire territory. Capture of Yankton was the first of the important incidents of 1863. They were gathered at one time in the valley of the Jim for this purpose. They were scouting the Yankton settlers and voting on whether to attack. The raid was scheduled for the night after the Gayville skirmish with the English squadron.

Meanwhile, back in Yankton, people were excited. Understandably, a minority wanted to flee to Sioux City for protection and urged English to furnish an escort which he declined, saying that Capt. Miner had ordered the soldiers to stay there. Others, a majority of residents, voted to fortify and hold the town with a stockade.

One night, while the building progressed, there was an Indian scare. Three or four frightened men hid instead of working. A Mrs. Edgar, who was visiting a sister, Mrs. Obed Foot, hunted down the missing man and returned to the point of her trail to order them to return to work. Eno Stutsman, a crippled lawyer and landsman, was present at the stockade, English related, and was hoisting his rifle and Navy revolver hanging at his belt.

As all of this took place, the two couriers, Merrill Lathrop and Michael Fisher reached Vermillion and delivered Capt. Zabriskie’s dispatch to Capt. Miner. Immediately the Vermillion Company left for Yankton arriving the next day. Eight of them were mistaken for Indians and settlers demanded that something be done. When the error was realized, the pioneers praised the soldiers.

Fortifications were completed in a few days, and Capt. Miner returned to Vermillion leaving Lt. Bacon at Yankton in command of a 40-man detachment. Mounted pickets were poised in the hills to warn of possible approaching Indians. None came. When the stockade was completed, it enclosed land “on Fourth street, on the alley west of Broadway, and run east to Cedar, thence south to about midway of the block south of Third Street, thence, west to the place beginning and was built of part lumber, dirt, and such other material as could be obtained.

“A large blockhouse was built inside and altogether the fortification was quite formidable. Nearly all the people around Yankton were concentrated within the stockade, also many from Bon Homme, where they remained for several weeks until winter was approaching and a great danger from Indians raids over for the season.”

The English papers record other ludicrous and interesting incidents during the siege.

An accidental discharge of a gun one night by a picket sent all the other guards dashing for the stockade. Residents inside the stockade were aroused from sleep. Those in tents and wagons ran for the buildings. One excited father grabbed a child in his arms and dragged another young one by the leg thinking it was an arm and hurried to the Dakota printing office which was one of the buildings enclosed by the fortification.

Washington Reed and his two young sons, Matt and Tom, who were not alarmed to any great extent by the Indian scare, went from their home west of town on Stormy Bear Bottom up into the ravines and galleries for a load of building lumber. They didn’t complete the work before dark and decided to camp out.

Captain Miner missed them and ordered Sg t. English and nine other men to accompany him on the search for the Reeds. They were joined by A.B. Smith with a horse and sulky and Samuel “Spot” Mortimer on horseback.

After a long search some of the men became separated, and A.M. English wrote:

We came suddenly upon the harness and sulky of Smith, who had become separated from the command, as had also “Spot.” We concluded the Indians had killed Smith and probably Spot.

“The weather was quite warm, and some of our boys took off their coats disclosing their red flannel shirts. When seen in picturesque garb by Smith and Spot as we fled out of a ravine, which we had been scouring for the lost men, they took us for Indians with red blankets. Stripping his harness from his horse, Smith mounted him and with Spot lit out for the hills. We soon caught sight of them as they rode at a breakneck pace to get away from the supposed Indians.

“We also mistook them for Indians, and the command came from our Captain in quick succession, 'Forward gallop follow me boys, we must have those Indians' and putting spurs to his horse dashed away at a rapid gallop after the fleeing fugitives, closely followed by his little command.

"Over the hills through the ravines, gulleys and brush, tearing our clothes and scratching our persons, on we went after those red-handed savages, the murderers of our friends and neighbors, until we brought up in the midst of a springy miry place near the head of a ravine where some of our horses stock fast.

"William Neuman, a sergeant in Company A, who was hunting his horse which had strayed away, stood on a high hill west of the present location of the Cement Works watching the chase, and he soon became convinced that there were no Indians involved.

"Smith and Spot whom we were chasing soon joined Neuman. We got out of the mud and again moved forward at a rapid gait toward the three men whom we saw intently watching us. We were soon convinced that we had been pursuing white men and so slackened our pace and rode quietly and very soberly up to the fugitives, where we stopped and enjoyed a hearty laugh and learned from Neuman that the Reeds had returned safely home.”

by Ellen Tobin

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR 1898

The battles fought Manila, February 5, 1899, Malolos, March 25, Palo March, 26, Mayaguez, March 26, Mariko, March 27, Bocow, March 27, Baguia, March 29, Malad, March 30-31, Calumpit, April 24, San Fernando, May 24, Guipuzcoa, March 29, and many others.

Three died were: Oscar Felker, February 23, William Fahrenwald, May 13, and Charles Prosty June 12, 1869.

The wounded were: George Benson, March 23-27; Arno Hughes, March 24-27; Sidney J. Cornell, March 24-27; George Amoo, March 24-27; L.S. Richmond, March 26; Joseph Waugh, March 29; Lewis C. Baker, March 29; John Bennett, March 29; Guy P. Davis, March 30; Frank Stevens, March 30. They were mustered out San Francisco, October 5. There was a welcome home in Yankton, October 14, 1869.

by Dakota Territorial Museum

SPANISH—AMERICAN WAR T91

On February 15, 1898 the U.S. Battleship Maine was sunk in the harbor of Havana, Cuba "Remember the Maine" became a national slogan. On April 19, 1898, President McKinley authorized the United States to send the United States of China. On April 30, Captain William S. Gray Yankton Command of Company "C", received orders to have his troops in readiness.

The following information was taken from the book: Official History of the Operations of the First South Dakota Infantry, U.S.V. in the Campaign in the Philippine Isles by: Captain Frank W. Medbery. Company "C" - 3rd Battalion in which a large number of personnel was from the Yankton County area. Such as:

- William S. Gray, Captain, was born in Ivanhoe, Illinois, June 18, 1874, and removed with his parents to South Dakota, in 1881. He graduated from Yankton College in 1888, but even while a student there he had taken much interest in the South Dakota National Guard, having enlisted as a private in August, 1896.
- In November, 1896, he received his commission as 2nd Lieutenant, and as 1st Lieutenant, in 1898, when he was appointed Quartermaster of the 3rd Battalion, South Dakota National Guard. Commission as Captain of Company C, was received in November, 1897. Receiving his commission as company commander, he was mustered into the volunteer service and accompanied the regiment to Manila, P.I. His was one of the companies left in the city as guard during the 5th of February. On the 9th of February, he joined the regiment and was continually on the firing line during the campaign.
- William L. Schoettler, 1st Lieutenant, was born in Moline, Illinois, September 16, 1877.
- He went with his parents to York, in Nebraska, 1882, attending the public school at that place until 1892, then spending two years at Grand Island College, Grand Island, Nebraska. After leaving college, he worked for his father on a large stock farm at Spring Branch, Nebraska, remaining there until October, 1897, when he went to Rapid City, South Dakota to accept a position with his uncle, R.L. Hurlbut, City Auditor. He enlisted in Company M, 1st South Dakota Infantry U.S.V., and was mustered in as Sergeant, being appointed Quater Master Sergeant, September 11, 1898, and 1st Sergeant April 12, 1899. He was promoted 1st Lieutenant, and assigned to Company C, August 3, 1899.
- Oliver C. Lapp, 2nd Lieutenant, was born in Wewatta, Missouri, and enlisted in Company I, as a private, April 25, 1898. He was mustered as Quater Master Sergeant May 18th, and was promoted to 1st Sergeant, Company I, June 15, 1898. He took an active part in the advance on San Fernando, until wounded at Calumpit, River, April 25th. He was discharged from the service to accept an appointment as 2nd Lieutenant, in the 1st South Dakota Infantry, U.S.V., May 19, 1899, and assigned to Company C. He took part in all the engagements participated in by the regiment, in the campaign from Manila to Calumpit River, returning to the United States on the hospital ship Relief. Some of the officers that were in Company C - 3rd Battalion included the following: Leo F. Foster, 1st Lieutenant; Carpenter; Capt; 3rd U.S.V.; July.
- Samuel G. Larson, 2nd Lieutenant; Pilot; 1st Lieut. May 9, 1899, assigned to Co. A. Peter M. McGillivray, 1st Sergeant; Menominee, Michigan, Engineer; Enlisted July 16, 1899, in 35th U.S.V.
- William Fahrenwald, Q.M. Sergeant; Yankton, Letter Carrier; died May 13, 1899.
- Arthur D. Russell, Sergeant; Yankton, Student.
- Chancey W. Owens, Sergeant; Yankton, Farmer; Discharged Jan. 18, 1899.
- Frank B. Stevens, Sergeant; Yankton, Student; Wounded March 29, 1899.
- John L. Russel, Corporal; Yankton, Surveyor; Nov. 21, 1899; Lieut. 37th Vol Inf, August 1, 1899.
- Frederick E. Vinson, Corporal; Vermillion, S.D., Printer.
- Frederick Albers, Corporal; Carroll, Iowa, Farmer; Sergeant July 24, 1899.
- Thomas B. O’Gara, Corporal; Yankton, S.D., Student; Discharged, Aug. 9, 1899.
- Maurice L. Blott, Corporal; Yankton, S.D., Student; Discharged, Aug. 9, 1899.
- Cynthia J. Cornell, Jr., Corporal; Yankton, S.D., Clerk; Sergeant March 5, 1899; 1st Sergeant; July 25, 1899; wounded March 25, 1899.
- Frank L. Hanous, Musician; Beresford, South Dakota; Printer; Discharged Sept. 6, 1899.
- Eugene D. Karr, Musician; Yankton, S.D., Painter; Corps June 24, 1899.
- George Gruver, Corporal; Yankton, S.D., Butcher; Transferred to Hospital.
- Joseph D. Waugh, Waggoner; Yankton, S.D., Farmer; Wounded March 31, 1899.

The privates were:
- James F. Anderson; Yankton, S.D., Carpenter.
- Frank W. Baske; Yankton, S.D., Clerk.
- Ephraim Bahl; Wakaona, S.D., Farmer.
- Lewis F. Barber; Tyndall, S.D., Clerk.
- Wounded March 29, 1899.
- Edward P. Spero; Ne, Farmer. Justin A. Baxter; Corning, N.Y., Musician.
- John H. Benedict; Springfield, S.D., Farmer.
- Wounded March 30, 1899.
- George Benson; Yankton, S.D., Farmer.
- Wounded March 26, 1899.
- Milton P. Black; Vesel, Ne, Farmer.
- Homer J. Bradley; Aberdeen, S.D., Engineer.
- George H. Broussard; Yankton, S.D., Farmer.
- Edward E. Burns; Yankton, S.D., Laborer.
- George E. Burt; Springfield, S.D., Clerk.
- Re-enlisted in 11th Vol. Cavalry.
- Moses T. Caller; Creighton, Ne, Teacher.
- Eugene Callan; Beresford, S.D., Telegrapher.
- Wounded June 13, 1899.
- Allen C. Carr; Yankton, S.D., Clerk.
- George H. Cory; Verdi, Ne, Farmer.
- Herbert G. Cushing; Yankton, S.D., Engineer.
YANKTON COUNTY AND THE VIETNAM CONFLICT 1962-1975

The following is a partial list of Yankton County Service people who served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam conflict:

David M. Hevel, Navy; Michael Welsh, Marine; Darwin List, Army; Larry Bouka, Navy; James Stark, Army; Richard A. Johnson, Army; Eddie Horton, Navy; Lavern Hermanson, Army; Martin Saffel, Navy; Leonard Christenson, Navy; Jerry Ryan, Army; Darrel Hemes, Army; Donald Hemes, Marine; Dennis Beveridge, Army; Joseph Foutzow, Army; Ronald L. Brown, Army; Patrick Bronough, Air Force; Dennis Calhoun, Navy; Terry L. Turner, Navy; Theodore T. Blakely, Air Force; Dale Shibara, Army; Richard Decker, Navy; Stephen Decker, Navy; Stephen Growney, Navy; Herbert Hanes, P.F.B.; Charles Christenson, Navy; Jim Juffer, Army; Alvin Appleton, Army; Neil Kohl, Army; Charles Janssen, Army; Daryl Merikan, Army; Douglas Highland, Army; Romaine Loekens, Army; Richard Smith, Army; Ronald Freeman, Army; Allan Sandus, Army; Robert Church, Air Force; Bradley Lobbers, Army; Michael Rogers, Air Force; Tom Gigge, Army; Hubert Watson, Navy; Paul Hamberger, Navy; John Scieszka, Army; Larry Mayer, Navy; Rodney Holbrook, Navy; Rodney Kaiser, Navy; James Basger, Army; Daane Aman, Air Force; Clifford Brunick, Navy; Jack Dilts, Army; Tom Fiedler, Army; Robert Hackett, Army; Dale E. Jones, Army; Michael Kapple, Navy; and Rodger Hattler, Marine; David Nichols, Army, and Robert Lukas, Navy. These are just some of the boys that fought for us. There are many, many more, but impossible to find.


by Mary Henle
CHURCHES

INVITATION

At present of our little Lord,
We love and reverently unfold,
These examples show and grant that we
May live in Providence with Thee.

BANQUET of the
Ladies' Aid Society
AT THE
FIRST METHODIST CHURCH
FEB. 12th, 1931
YANKTON, S. DAK.

Program

- Welcome
- Object lesson: "My Love Is Like a Red, Red Rose"
- Vocal Solo: "The Old English Air"
- instrumental Solo: "Vesper's Meditation March" (Opus 210 No. 18)
- Vocal Solo: "The Old English Air"
- The Beauties - "One Minute Votes"
- Singing - "America" (Everybody)

Thank all you speak, but speak not all you think.

No present, but a present for the whole nation.

May God bless you with a happy soul.

TRADITION-WORR. 2:1. 4.

The African Methodist Episcopal Church
at 508 Cedar Street.

A.M.E. CHURCH

Members and former members of the Allen Chapel, African

Taken on April 19, 1979, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the church, the commemoration, and Legion Aw...
A.M.E. CHURCH

Members and former members of the pioneer Allen Chapel, African Methodist Episcopal Church, 508 Cedar St., did mark a centennial milestone last year, 1985. The Allen Chapel, which was placed in the National Register of Historic Places, is now a number of years ago in the first continuous black church dating back to territorial days. A congregation of blacks formed the church November 20, 1863, when they assembled in the Deu Bethania Church for the purpose of organization. They were assisted by the district presiding elder, J.W. Maloee. A Sunday School was organized at the same time.

First elected officers were Thomas Sturgis, superintendent; Mrs. Susan Graves, assistant superintendent; J.M. Rankin, secretary; Mrs. Elizabeth Parsons, treasurer; Mrs. Eliza Stokes, assistant secretary; Louis Grant, librarian; and Mrs. Clara Lewis, assistant librarian.

The Sunday School had an enrollment of 20. The library contained 12 volumes. First report was made at the district convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in June of 1884.

First pastor assigned here was the Rev. G.W. Nimsure. Successing pastors were T. Mudd, James Higgins, G.R. Brown and W.H. Spence.

The little congregation witnessed a spiritual upsurge with the arrival of the Henry and Isaac Blakely families, followed shortly by the John Holliday, Spencer Blakelys and others of the clan.

Isaac Blakely as first titular head of the church, regularly represented the church at convention meetings, and was well known by the ministry and laity as well.


J.A. Bradford, L.P. Ashford, S.F. Coleman, C.J. Caudle, Ivan Johnson, Harold Culpepper, Robert Lewis, Breeda Jackson, and in September 1884, William Kelly of Milwaukee, Wisconsin was appointed as pastor and served as host pastor for the Centennial Celebration.

It has been quite trying to keep the doors open at times when there was not a full time minister. Friends often filled in and Rev. Otto Jensen of Yankton, who worked for the American Sunday School Union, assisted when needed. Yankton College had a seminary and would send students to help. Helen Tiesemann of Yankton, South Dakota, who had served as a missionary in the Belgian Congo, Africa, resided in Yankton and assisted for ten years. In the last few years, Oliver Omasun of Calvary Baptist Church, Yankton, has helped with visitations and whenever help is needed.

Probably the most classic remnent took place at Yankton on the front lawn of the Yankton African Methodist Episcopal Church, which celebrated its 100th birthday on April 19, 1975. Don Busher, Yankton, a descendant of Robert Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and U.S. Constitution, fired one shot from a Revolutionary War musket. Busher, was dressed in Minuteman attire. The "shot heard round the world" to commemorate the Lexington-Concord skirmishes of colonial Militiamen and Redcoats on April 19, 1775 noted that black people were among patriots who fought and died in the Revolutionary War 200 years ago.

by Ellen Tobin

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, rural Mees- no, South Dakota, was organized in 1875 by Norwegian immigrants who came to the prairies in covered wagons to homesteads. In 1880, Sunday School was started. In 1884, children walked from Jamestown to Gayville for confirmation instructions. In 1885, decisions were made to build a church, dedication being in 1892. In 1896, the Ladies Aid was organized. The present parsonage was built in 1905.

Pastors: Christenson, Guildbrandson, Hovestaedt, Dahl, Wels, Mahlin, Broch, Ledverson (38 years), Horgan, Buresch, Hagen, Lovaas and Bacon have served this congregation.


by Owen Hill

(See photo next page.)
BETHLEHEM CHURCH

During the years of 1885 to 1873, new settlers moved into the fertile plains of the James River area. They were immigrants from Norway, having heard through relatives or friends previously immigrated to America what a land of plenty this was. Some brought their families, others left loved ones to be sent later. Many came to stay for a time with relatives or friends in some eastern state but mostly in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa. They took jobs in order to make money to buy a few things needed to start for themselves, and then moved on into Dakota Territory to seek and finally file for a homestead.

In 1874 a pastor visited the settlers and had the first divine service in their midst. The following year he visited them and organized the James River N.E. Lutheran Congregation, a name which was later changed to Bethlehem Congregation.

In 1875 building of a new church was discussed. In 1880 a motion was made and carried that Sunday School be started at once. Some children walked from Javemeville Territory to Gayville for confirmation instructions.

In October 1883 a decision was made to build a church, with ground breaking July 15, 1884. Labor was donated by members. lumber was hauled from south of Gayville, not by truck, but by oxen and horses. In October of that year the annual meeting was held in the new church. On Dec. 16, 1884 the church by-laws were adopted. Dedication of the church grounds was April 28, 1885 but dedication of the church building was Sept. 1882.

Bang Congregation became associated with Bethlehem forming a two point church parish.

In 1905 fifty-four acres of land was purchased for a parsonage. Forty acres was for the pastor and fourteen acres was to be retained for parsonage grounds. Building of a parsonage was finished in 1905. Parochial school was held yearly from six to three months.

An annual event of Bethlehem Congregation was a Fall Festival all day which also served as a homecoming for many members. Ladies Aid was organized early in the church, in later years Luther League for all young people, Lutheran Brotherhood for the men, Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation for young ladies.

In 1939 two more congregations, Elim and Our Saviors, combined with Bethlehem and Bang to form the Midway Parish.

In 1963 Bang, Bethlehem and Elim merged forming Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and with sister congregation Our Saviors formed a two point parish.

The church building was sold to Oscar Carter and it was moved to his farm home, rural Menno. He restored it to its original interior.

by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Erickson

BENEDICTINES IN YANKTON COUNTY

The Convent of the Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart was established in Yankton County in 1887 at the request of Bishop Martin Marty, first bishop of Dakota Territory. The Sisters, of Swiss origin, had come from Maria-Altenbach in 1874. They settled first in Maryville, Nodaway County, Missouri, where they ministered to the German immigrants living in that area.

In 1881 Bishop Marty, newly appointed Vicar Apostolic of the vast Dakota Territory, approached Mother Gertrude Leipsi, superior, asking for Sisters to work among the Indians. She complied by sending three Sisters to teach in the government school at Standing Rock Agency in Ft. Yates, North Dakota. At about the same time a group of Austrian immigrants living at MariaZell, near present-day Bedford, asked the Sisters for help. The Bishop encouraged the Sisters of Maryville to move their convent to Dakota and make it their field of labor.

Again three Sisters made the difficult journey to Dakota and began living in a three-room shanty on land they homesteaded. Soon they were instructing the children of the immigrants, making their bedroom serve as a classroom during the day. The settlers built a small convent for the Sisters and by 1887 their number had increased to 24 including those who came from Maryville and daughters of the settlers who had joined them. But crop failures, scarcity of food, colds and "potato chips" the only fuel to combat the bitter cold of winter and the fact that the railroad was not routed through Zell made it an unhappy place for a convent. When Bishop Marty invited Mother Gertrude to consider moving to Yankton, she did not hesitate.

The Sisters of Mercy of Omaha had come to Yankton in 1876, and soon after opened an academy on Prospect Hill. Their building, beneath the clock tower, forms the entrance to the present convent. Due to financial burdens and other difficulties, they withdrew and the Bishop converted their academy into a school for Indian boys. When the Department of Indian Affairs in Washington disapproved because it was not on a reservation, the Bishop was forced to find a use for the vacant structure. Then it was that he thought of the Sisters struggling in Zell and offered the property to them. Upon investigation, they found the location ideal, the building adequate, and the field of labor unlimited.

In 1889 the Sisters purchased the property, including the episcopal residence the Bishop had erected in 1882 and which he needed, for by then Sioux Falls had the see city of the diocese. The Sisters moved their academy to this site. A new building was constructed and a year later the Sisters opened a "Mildred School." In 1891, a new building was opened in the form of an "L" and the "old school" was used as a convent for the Sisters. In 1895, the sisters added a girls' school. The convent was expanded in 1905 and the school was moved to a new building in 1907. The Sisters continued to operate the school until 1978. In 1979, the convent was sold to a new religious order and reopened as a school for mentally retarded children. The Sisters now own and operate a home for the elderly. This site is located on the west side of the city.

A pen sketch of "the hill" as it was in 1887.
EDICTINES IN ION COUNTY

out of the Benedicite Sisters of St. Joseph were received into the congregation by Bishop Thomas A. Hickey at the request of Bishop. In 1887, the first bishop of Dakota Territory, Father Michael Burke, of Swiss origin, had come to the Dakota Territory to provide religious instruction for the immigrants. He opened a school in Fort Yates, North Dakota, and established the first congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph in 1892. The sisters then moved to Fort Yankton, South Dakota, and established a convent and school in 1893.

The sisters were dedicated to educating the children of the region, and their presence contributed to the growth and development of the community. Through dedication and hard work, the sisters helped to establish a foundation for education and religious life in the Dakota Territory.

In 1900, the sisters established a second convent in Yankton, South Dakota, and continued to expand their mission. The sisters' presence in the region was a testament to their commitment to serving the people and helping them to grow in faith and knowledge.
Sacred Heart Hospital opened its doors in a new location, just north of Benet Home, but still part of "the hill" to allow the former hospital to be dedicated to the care of the elderly. In September, 1984, Mount Marty College began a new phase in its history with Evening College welcoming the adult learner.

The pioneer women who left their homes in Switzerland and Germany came to America to serve God and his people. American girls have been giving up homes and families, inspired by the same motive. Together they minister as members of Sacred Heart Convent in an ever widening involvement in the lives of those whom they serve. Today, 230 Sisters, engaged in a variety of ministries work and pray with the ancient Benedictine motto: "That in all things God may be glorified" as their guide.

by Sister Verena Kaiser

CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH

In 1946 Rev. Victor Erickson was employed by the Iowa and Dakota Baptist conferences as their State Missionary. He was called for the specific purpose of planting new Baptist General Conference Churches. One of the first areas to be surveyed was Yankton. In September of 1947 several interested families were located. Two of these families, who later became charter members were the O.H. Rulon and Chris Hansen families. Prayer meetings were held at the Chris Hansen home, located at 710 Walnut. Shortly thereafter the Seventh Day Adventist Church, located at 408 West 6th was rented to hold Sunday School services. A series of meetings were held with the following Pastors participating: Drury Miller from Big Springs, Burton Ankerberg from Ramsey, W.R. Danielson from Sun Prairie, C. Christensen from Dalesburg, Maurice Weissman from Sioux Falls and Earl Sherman from Sioux City. After these services were completed, it was decided to commence a Sunday School.

A group of these pastors drove to Vermillion and contacted Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Omanson. Oliver was a student at the university. They came to Yankton each Sunday to transport children and older folks to church. They also taught Sunday School and Oliver assisted in the preaching from time to time. New families were contacted each week. A young lady, Janette Hansen, started coming and became the pianist.

When it became evident that Rev. Erickson was wanted in another field, Rev. Glen Pickett was contacted and came in June 1948, to become the first full-time minister of the group. In January 1950 the Trinity Lutheran Building on 6th and Capital was purchased by the Dakota Baptist Conference for $17,000.00. On Tuesday April 11, 1950 the small group of people organized into an official Church body. There were 14 charter members. The name of Calvary Baptist Church was adopted. On Sunday, April 16, dedication services for the Church were held.

This building was used by both congregations until February 1963 during which time the new Trinity Church was being built. After the altar and the organ pipes were removed, a baptismal was installed. Church was dedicated in August 1963. In 1955 the pews were sanded and reupholstered; tile was laid and the church redecorated.

In June 1965 Rev. and Mrs. Pickett resigned. Rev. Oliver Omanson extended a call and came to serve the church in October 1965. The Omansons resigned in September 1958 and in July the following year the Rev. Floyd Meyer and family came to continue the work. They served the family church until April 1964, during which time the Church continued to grow in number and spirit. In November 1964 Rev. Elwood Anderson and family were called and continued the good work. During his ministry a new parsonage was built at 909 Burgess, and the land was purchased at 17th and Burleigh for the erection of a new church. After a profitable ministry, the Andersons resigned in May 1969. The following August, Rev. Oliver Omanson accepted the call to serve Calvary Baptist and continues to the present time.

by Carol Noteboom

ST. BRIDGET - WALTHXTOWN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Lured by the extravagant promises of a quarter of land and rain and sunshine, the prairies of Dakota became the destination of hundreds of those emigrating from their European homes to find a new life in America. Among them, a colony of Irish formed a small community a few miles north and east of Yankton, to be named after one of its pioneer leaders, Walhouten.

The first records of Catholic activity in this community is a report in May 1881 that there would be a pious raffle to solicit funds for the construction of a church which was eventually erected on a knoll overlooking a cemetery already established in Walhouten Township, Yankton County. On August 25, 1881, records the ownership of a tract as "Bishop Martin Marty, and his heirs and assigns forever." On September 25, 1881, Bishop Marty laid the cornerstone for the church under construction and on December 8 of that same year a Father O'Donnell, a priest with an appropriate name, presided at a dedication of the building placed under the patronage of Saint Bridget, Patroness of Ireland.

The Rev. George Sheehan was the first priest assigned to serve this parish. It was one of many small congregations on the prairies—Swan Lake, Childstown (later Idylwild), Meeno, Mayfield and Jamesville (to become Sigel). The parish itself was incorporated on October 3, 1883.

Father Sheehan was followed by Father Jacob Schirra, Father Philip Albrecht and Father George Hepperle who, for seven years, served the parishes of the north and east area of what is now Yankton County.

In 1892 the records show that the Catholic population of St. Bridget Parish at Walhouten numbered 23 Irish families and four German households.

Father George Hepperle succeeded by the Rev. Thomas W. Kearney who served the parish and its missions for three years (1896-1899) and then Rev. Lawrence Kerley came to be last resident priest of the Walhouten Catholics. When he was re-assigned in 1901 the pastoral charge of the parish was assumed first by the Sacred Heart Parish clergy of Yankton and then, in 1902, by the priest of St. Columba Parish, Mayfield.

There were occasional celebrations in St. Bridget Church afterwards until the church building itself was sold and moved away in 1904. All that remained was the Walhouten Church Cemetery across the road.

by Rev. Thom

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL "1st MOTHER CHURC HDAKOTA TERRITORY"

The Reverend Melanchon Hay of St. Thomas Episcopal Church City, and the Right Reverend Talbot, Missionary Bishop of the visited the new Missouri River Jefferson, Elk Point, Vermillion; in the summer of 1865 and de their next Church should be built it where the first permanent settlers ed the year before.
The few pioneer families continued to bury their dead in the St. Bridget (Walshtown Church) Cemetery but eventually even that vestige of parish activity ceased. The last burial was in 1947 or 1948 when Isabelle Foley was laid to rest among the Walshs, Gerins, Kellys and Malloys, the Hickey's and Murphy's and Marshalls and Kisselwills, the Gills and Foley's and Mary Cooney, Timothy Aman, Dolly Eldred, Rissie Iser and Alvia and Johanna Nipp whose names are all recorded in the graves record in the Yankton County Court House.

For years the cemetery was a fenced in area of brambles and lilacs and overgrown stones. In 1983 Brian McQuillan and the scouts of Troop 133 took the renovation of the cemetery on as an Eagle Scout project and today (1986) the pioneer Irish lie buried under a nicely terraced cover of clover and grass with an occasional marker to locate their graves.

by Rev. Thomas Ryan

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL "THE MOTHER CHURCH OF DAKOTA TERRITORY"

The Reverend Melanchthon Hoyt, founder of St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Sioux City, and the Right Reverend Joseph C. Talbot, Missionary Bishop of the Northwest visited the new Missouri River towns of Jefferson, Elk Point, Vermillion and Yankton in the summer of 1860 and decided that their next Church should be built in Yankton, where the first permanent settlers had located the year before.

Confirmation at St. Bridget's (Old Walshtown Catholic Church). Father Kearney was the pastor at the church. 39 persons were confirmed by Bishop Thomas O'Gorman on September 5, 1897.

Dr. Hoyt collected funds in the East from friends and donations from local citizens when he returned in the spring of 1891 and had a log building with cottonwood siding built at the northeast corner of 2nd and Fourth Streets.

by Carol Noteboom
cottonwood and the exterior painted brown and it was called the "Little Brown Church". A misprint had been secured by Mr. Bramble and special music was added to the service. Dakota Hall was built north of the first church on Linn Street to provide added education for the public school. After the public high school started this building was moved to 111 West Sixth Street where it was veneered with brick for school purposes by the public schools in the 1860s and by the church later as a school hall and rectory and finally demolished in 1969.

Christ Church parish outgrew the Little Brown Church, located west on Douglas Avenue and Sixth Streets, the corner stone was laid on September 20, 1880, and held services since November 12, 1882, in the present brick church for nearly a century and a quarter. A traditional church, the stained glass windows and most of the furnishings were memorials, many to the pioneers who started the parish and those who have carried on. Artisans who designed and constructed the alters, rood screens, baptismal font, lectern etc. were John T. Coxhead and Alex F. Offerman, capable and painstaking workmen and loyal churchmen.

Dr. Hoyt continued his missionary endeavors and has been credited with building fifty churches in the diocese, his last one, St. Andrew's Church at South Dakota served in recent years by rectors and laymen from Christ Church. The 1867 Christmas service was conducted by Dr. Hoyt in his new Scotland church, and he contracted pneumonia that caused his death in January 2, 1888. Christ Church Episcopal parish has been served by some twenty rectors through the years and has supplied a share of young priests, namely Richard Pieper, Franz Offerman, Robert Dunn, James Marrs, Robert Livingston (great grandson of Dr. Hoyt) and this year Walter Rasmussen, whose wife is a granddaughter of the Reverend Charles E. Freeman, who was rector from 1913-1917. It is impossible to note the contributions made by parishioners and rectors through these years; music, so important to worship services, has been provided through the faithful, uniring devotion of families such as the Hoyts, Kingburys, Summers, Milliken-Pieper, Boyles, Larabees, Edwards, Russell and so many individuals. Long time organists included May Swinney, Mrs. S.G. Donaldson and Alice Hohenhauer. The fund for the memorial organ now in use, was originated by Herbert Donaldson with a piano concert dedicated to his father in 1954. The organ was installed in 1961. Words cannot describe all that Christ Church Episcopal has contributed as the "Mother Church of Dakota Territory." The present rector, Allen Lewis, came to the Parish in 1980, as his first charge.

by Dorothy Jencks

(See photo next page.)
ELIM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Religious services were first conducted among the early pioneers in the Elim community as early as 1870 by Lutheran missionaries.

On October 6, 1903 a meeting was held at the Ole Eide home to organize the Elim Norwegian Lutheran Congregation. Charter members were the families of Ole Eide, J.H. Munksvold, and E. P. Eide. At the December 16, 1903 meeting, the name Elim Lutheran Church was chosen. Three more families joined; Richard Anderson, Iver Eide, and L.M. Gran.

The first baptism was April 26, 1903.

Phillip Sanford Eide, born April 12, 1903 to Evan and Bertha Eide. The first funeral was that of Clarence Nelson, son of John and Laura Nelson, he died November 21, 1903 at age 3 months. The following were the first class confirmed on April 26, 1908: Christine Rosene, Ellis Sogge, and Josephine Silvaanson.

As plans were being made in 1906 to secure a location for the church, John and Cornelia Christenson donated the land for the church building site, which was beside the cemetery that had been in use about 30 years. This was in Section 8 of Mayfield Township, Yankton County. At a meeting on March 26, 1907, the congregation decided to begin building operations in June of that year. The church dedication was held in July 1909. The first marriage ceremony performed in the new Elim Church was that of Christina Rosene and Leo Strom on June 30, 1914.


Elim Lutheran Church celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 4-5, 1953, with 176 confirmed members and 226 baptized members from 64 families. The final meeting of Elim Lutheran Church was held December 15, 1963. It is now a part of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church at Midway which consists of the three former congregations of Bang, Bethlehem and Elim.

by Virge Pearson, Historian

B. John's Episcopal Church was built in 1881 of cottonwood logs with cottonwood siding, located at the corner of Linn and Fourth Streets. This picture was taken in 1886 after thirty years or more as a residence only.
the office of J.B.S. Todd. The congregation consisted of two (2) women and five (5) men, the balance of the community being called away by the arrival of a steamboat. Reverend Ingham stayed in the Territory for a period of two (2) years, leaving on August 10, 1862 for the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference. After Conference he was assigned to another area.

The first Methodist Episcopal Society organized in Yankton D.T. was in the fall of 1865 with Reverend C.W. Batcheller of the Des Moines Conference. The only space available for worship was in the new Capitol Building at Fourth and Capitol. At the time the Society was organized there were only three (3) Methodists and a few outsiders in the area.

On August 20, 1872, the Trustees of the Church, bought property on Fourth Street upon which a new church was to be erected. The construction was to be of brick, 62x38 feet, with a complete basement and a bell tower to the right of the main entrance. It took some time to complete the building at a cost of about $7,000.00. In January 1874 it was dedicated and at the time was considered one of the finest structures in the Territory.

From time to time the church was redecorated. Opera chairs were exchanged for pews, a new electric organ replaced a "shabby" pipe organ, and a major remodeling job was done in 1942 and again in 1944. All of this improved the appearance of the building but did nothing to increase the seating capacity in the sanctuary or Sunday school class rooms, which were already overcrowded. So, needless to say, the congregation had really outgrown the little church built a cost of $7000.00 back in 1873.

By the early 1900's it became obvious that the building was no longer adequate to meet the needs of the growing congregation. Under the leadership of the Reverend L.W. Sackse (1905-1906) the congregation voted to build a new church.

It was a difficult decision to make, to abandon the old structure and move with a new church to another location. However the decision was made and in 1905 a new site was purchased at 11th and Cedar.

Ground breaking was held on February 1, 1909 and a very happy group met in Wesley Hall for a luncheon following the ceremony. At that time the District Superintendent Dr. Morris Kildahl informed the membership that a new church had been in the conference minutes as early as 1921. The new building was constructed in 1909 at a cost of $115,000.00 and consecrated on October 4th of the same year. The First unit contained the sanctuary, fellowship hall, kitchen and pastor’s study.

As the congregation continued to grow, the need for educational space became increasingly urgent. During the pastorate of the Reverend Howard Jones, from 1960 through 1965, the indebtedness of the first unit was systematically retired and a new parsonage was purchased at 1702 Cedar Street in March of 1966. Just a month after Reverend Donald Klarup came to Yankton, the Quarterly Conference voted unanimously to proceed with plans for the Educational Unit. The bids were received and opened on May 16, 1967. Contracts were awarded that same day to the low bidders, with Fred Jones Jr. named general contractor. His firm, led by his father, Fred Jones Sr., had been general contractor for the first unit. The groundbreaking ceremony was held June 16, 1967, and actual construction got under way in late summer, with completion coming the following spring. Total cost $200,000.00.

The decade following completion of the well equipped addition brought special emphasis on Christian Education. The Church hosted Laboratory Schools for church school teachers and confirmation leaders in the area. A church library was established. Scout troops, summer enrichment for preschoolers and Human Service Center parties are among community groups served in the new space.

During this time the merger of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren denominations brought the church the new name of United Methodist. Adoption of a Board and Committee Membership rotation schedule

The present First United Methodist Church with Educational Unit at 207 West 11th, Yankton, South Dakota.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST LADIES AID SOCIETY

The earliest Ladies Aid Society mentioned in the official records that was available was in 1870 at Elk Point, and "shortly after this time Ladies Aid Societies were organized at Yankton and Vermillion."

The first Women’s Foreign Missionary Society was organized in Yankton in 1882 by Mrs. Isabel Whitefield, pastor’s wife, and interestingly enough it was among the colored people. This Society existed for two years. The following thinly notes that the society of Home and Foreign Missions met monthly in homes. This resolution was included in the minutes: “Resolution: to begin on time; do business promptly; devotions in connection with lesson; that we prepare and use mystery box questions; that as leaders we make adequate preparation; that we recommend the serving of only two things for lunch.”

On October 18, 1922, the minutes of the Women’s Home Missionary Society at the home of Mrs. Jordan, president were noted; and on December 8 of the same year minutes of the Foreign Missionary Society with Mrs. Dunn, president, were noted. The Ladies Aid Society was also meeting at this time, but no records were available. A February 1925 record says, “Mrs. Dunn had charge of the devotions. A song “Somebody Knows” was given on the victrola.” The Ladies Aid Society continued until 1946. Mrs. Mildred Mayer, pastor’s wife, served as the last president. The Women’s Society of Christian Service organized in 1941 with 70 charter members. Mrs. R.D. Hill, first president.

United Methodist Women organized on October 7, 1949. Mrs. John Prince, first president, and 80 charter members.

by Myrtle Richardson, Millie Chapman, Beulah Krueger

The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation in Dakota Territory was c. 67 voting members in Oct. 1865 included were Union, Clay and Custer Counties. The settlements were at the Gavrels, Lake (become Gayville) James River (Vangen). Because of territory cuts out three districts were Bad River, Ben and Vangen to the west. At this time Norway, Chicago, was preaching anew the settlements and other pastoral duties. He returned 1865, but in 1866 Rev. C. Nars of Vangen made a visit. In August 1867 P. Luhansen was called as a resident living in the Bergen area. He decided to form a congregation of it separated from the mother congregation.

In 1869 Vangen felt the need and its own church and Bergen followed. Pastor Christiansen moved into Gay continued to serve until 1876. P. H. Dahl became the pastor and continued a long and conscientious along with his devoted wife. They lived in Gayville, directly across the street from the church. The & Church School of the church should be organized. Many years Vangen congregation in the north he became notable Gayville should have a church building. A plot of land was given to them by John O. and Christine

GAYVILLE LUTHERAN CHUE, GAYVILLE, SUD DAKOTA

by Harold Tisser
The Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Dakota Territory was organized with 67 voting members in October 1864. Included were Union, Clay and Yankton Counties. The settlements were known as Bergen, Laken (to become Gayville) and James River (Vangun). Because of the great territory covered three districts were formed. Bride Creek to the east, Bergen the center and Vangun to the west. At this time Rev. J. Krohn, Chicago, was preaching at homes throughout the settlements and performing other pastoral duties. He returned again in 1866, lost in 1866 Rev. C. Naes of Wisconsin made a visit. In August 1867 Pastor Emil Christensen was called as a resident pastor, living then in the Bergen area. Bride Creek decided to form a congregation of it's own as separated from the Mother congregation that year.

In 1886 Vangun felt the need and built their own church and Bergen followed in 1876. Pastor H.B. Hustvedt was the next pastor and carried on the work until 1881, the year of the big flood. Following Hustvedt’s departure, the Rev. P.H. Dahl became the resident pastor and continued a long and consecrated service along with his devoted wife. They lived in the parsonage at Gayville, directly west across the street from the church. The house now belongs to the Gayville School District and is used for its superintendent. During these many years Vangun congregation was widening its borders to such an extent that it was apparent Gayville should have their own church building. A plot of land was deeded to them by John O. and Christine Aaseh. The cornerstone was laid on Sept. 6, 1911. Martin and Anton Dahl were the contractors and work was started at once. It was a small white frame structure, heated by wood stove and lit by kerosene lamps. The Ladies Aid purchased the bell and altar painting. In 1913 a full basement was added for Sunday School classes, a kitchen and dining area.

The Gayville district remained a part of Vangun Congregation until 1903 when Gayville incorporated as Gayville Evangelical Lutheran Church Dec. 15, 1903. Members included in making the application for charter were Ole A. Olson, Knut Olson and Colben Peterson. On Jan. 11, 1905 Gayville Congregation purchased 2 acres of land 1/4 mile northwest of Gayville for the sum of $160 from Holger Anderson (also Erdrenson) for a cemetery, previously the one east of Mission Hill. The Ladies Aid raised money to pay for a fence and entrance gate. In 1913 Pastor O.V. Smeby accepted a call to be assistant pastor for the aging Pastor Dahl, who passed away 59 years later July 31, 1918. Smeby became presiding pastor of the parish, then Gayville, Vangun, Bergen and Meckling. In 1929 Gayville and Vangun formed one parish and Bergen and Meckling another. In 1951 Vangun built their own parsonage. The old parsonage at Gayville was sold at public auction in 1919 to the highest bidder, Ole B. Larene, for the sum of $400. (Mrs. Dahl had moved to Sioux Falls.) Proceeds were divided among the congregation. The Gayville congregation bought back two lots of the southwest corner for $720 in event they decided on a parsonage. Pastor Smeby continued to serve Gayville-Vangun until 1948 when they moved to Longmont, Colorado. In August 1945 Rev. R.P. Wilson was installed, coming from Canton, South Dakota. In March of 1951 he accepted a call to Sinai, South Dakota. S.M. Kvinge, a seminary graduate, was installed June 1952. He resigned Nov. 1956 to go to Anaconda, Montana. Coming to succeed him was WM. L. Vawdrey, for his first parish. He served from 1956 to 1960 when he left for Minneapolis to continue studies. In Sept. 1960 Pastor Bruce Kjellberg arrived.

In 1902 upon the resignation of their pastor and their declining membership, Meckling- Bergen invited Gayville to form a new parish with them. This realignment was agreed upon and Vangun became a single congregation. A 50 year old "marriage" was terminated. Pastor Kjellberg continued as their pastor. Gayville then decided on a newparsonage. It was built on the lots purchased in 1919. A ranch type three bedroom, 1/4 baths with attached garage and full basement was dedicated on April 21, 1963. The new pastor, Jon Simundson, was installed the same day. He, wife Alice and three children lived there until 1963. Jan. 13, 1971 a decision was made to build a new church at Gayville on the present site. On April 11, 1971 the last service was held in the old church building. Dismantling began the next day.

Contractor for the new building was C.I. Hensom, Laurens, Iowa. The new church was constructed of concrete blocks and brick veneer. It was L-shaped and all on the ground floor. It included seating for 250 persons, a fellowship hall, eight classrooms, library, minister’s study, large vestibule and rest-rooms.

Worship services were held at the Gayville School Auditorium until March 26, 1972 when the new building was dedicated. Pastor at that time was Alvin Jacobson and family who in 1967 following Simundson- Jacobsons left the parish in 1973 to accept a call at Clinton, Wisconsin. Coming from Laurel, Nebraska, as the next pastor to serve from 1973-1980 was Gary Westgard, wife Mary and two children. The present pastor is Don Torala, wife Von and two daughters who came here in 1981 from a pastorate in New York, South Dakota.

The 60th anniversary of the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Congregation in Dakota Territory was held in Gayville Oct. 5, 1924. The 70th anniversary of Bergen, Meckling, Gayville and Vangun parishes was observed Oct. 1934. The 90th parish anniversary was observed Oct 1954. The 100th parish anniversary was observed Oct. 1964. Participating in the last 2 anniversaries was Rev. Fribee Young, son of the Gayville Congregation. Interesting Highlights Until 1941 annual meetings were an all day affair.

1939 offering envelope system began. 1940 first shipment of Lutheran World Relief Clothing 1946 salaries became fixed amount to pastor. Festive offerings previously given to pastor applied to budget. 1959 changing from assessments to voluntary. 1964 first use of Sunday bulletins 1948 women voted on council as members 1950 services recorded on tape for sick and shut-ins.

1967 one year sponsorship of Living Word Radio Broadcast on WNAX 1968 began and still continuing sponsor-ship of Missionary (Material taken from a history book printed for the Centennial Celebration of the four churches in 1964 “Chosen to Proclaim”)

by Mrs. Eugene Olson

IST UNITED 'HODIST LADIES AID SOCIETY

The Senior Ladies Aid Society mentioned that the committee available was Elk Point, and "shortly after this the Ladies Aid Societies organized on March 4, 1922, at the meeting of the Home Missionary Society at the home of Mrs. Jordan, president; Mrs. Anna Nielsen, vice president; Mrs. K. D. Keenly, secretary; Mrs. C. J. Olson, and Mrs. A. Anderson were elected officers. The Ladies Aid is also meeting at this time, but no minutes are available. A February 1925 meeting, Mrs. Dunn had charge of the refreshments and Mrs. B. A. G. was the victress. The Ladies Aid continued until 1940. Mrs. Mildred upton’s wife, served as the last president of the Women’s Society of Christian Service. On June 28, 1927 and 70 charter members, Methodist Women organized on March 28, 1927. Mrs. John Prince, first and 80 charter members.

Myrtle Richardson, Millie Chapman, Beulah Krueger
By way of introduction to the Free Methodist Church denomination, I would offer a few general facts. Free Methodism traces its roots back to John Wesley, the Founder of Methodism in England, and was formally organised in the U.S. in Baltimore on December 24, 1784.

During the late 1850s and early 1860s, there was much dissent among the Methodists because of several "hot" issues of the day. One of those issues was the holding of slaves by the church members and officials. Another was the practice of renting the pews to the rich while the poor had to stand in the back of the churches, and a third major issue was the exclusive groups which would meet in secret societies outside of the church and form policies which they brought to bear on the rest of the church society without the benefit of all participating.

Many new denominations were formed by dissidents who felt these practices to be unscriptural. The Wesleyans, Nazarenes, Brethren, African Episcopal Methodist, Salvation Army and Free Methodists were among those groups. The "Free" in Free Methodist represented the right of freedom from slavery, freedom of the pews to all, and the freedom to decide policy among the members of the society. It also involved the freedom of liturgy in worship.

The Free Methodist church in Yankton began its ministry in 1839 by G.A. Evans and a small group who met in a farm house located on what is now called Whiting Drive.

In 1843, with a group of eleven official members, the building on the corner of 11th and Burleigh was purchased for a church meeting place for the sum of $6,500. This building is currently serving as a day care center.

As the congregation's attendance began to outgrow the building on the corner of 11th and Burleigh, they began to seek another. At the same time the Evangelical United Brethren Church on the corner of 5th and Cedar became available for purchase because of the merger of the EUB with the United Methodist Church. The Free Methodist group then sold the little church on 11th and Burleigh, and purchased the one on 5th and Cedar for $34,500 in 1867.

The EUB church had been built in 1922 and has a fine dark walnut wood throughout with lovely large stained glass windows. It can seat 250 people comfortably if the balcony is used.

Rev. Kenneth Dwyer was the pastor during this period in the church's history, and the average attendance was 70 persons. Rev. Dwyer was later to return in November of 1963 and serve until his death in June of 1983.

The growth or decline of membership and attendance fluctuated throughout the years since 1957 for a variety of reasons. Often the change in pastors had a great effect on the congregation. The Free Methodist denomination used to practice a rotation schedule of pastors, believing that the people would become too attached to the men and not to the Lord. In recent years, however, that policy has been reversed and they realize the need for stability and continuity in a church congregation and its relationship to its pastor.

Like many churches, the Free Methodist Church has had hard times in recent years. When Rev. John L. Ramires arrived from Seattle, Washington in July of 1963, there were only six members and an average attendance of 18 on a Sunday morning. The building was in a bad state of repair since there had been no money for the upkeep, and the morale was low.

Since then, the roof has been repaired, the electrical wiring has been brought up to standard, and work is under way to restore the rest of the building to its original condition for historical as well as its aesthetic value.

There is now a core group of 15 people and an average Sunday attendance of 22 and growing. There is still much to be done.

The people in Yankton whose lives have been influenced in one way or another by the presence of the Free Methodist Church will have an interest in its future, and we want to thank them for their participation in the past.

List of pastors who served at the Free Methodist Church in Yankton.

When a young Catholic couple bought a piece of land bordering the work of Lewis and Clark Lake in 1957, they prayed to Mary that they might be shown how to use the large parcel of property. It was customary on a lake used primarily for recreational purposes to sub-divide the land into plots for sale. Pleased with their purchase, the couple took a Chaplain from Mt. Marty College in Yankton on a tour of the rugged terrain, pointing out its accessibility to the city of Yankton and to vacationers in the park below. After the trip, the priest advised them not to sell all of the land for homesites. He insisted that they save some of it...for an edifice to God.

The seed was planted, and it was to grow. About this time, a former resident of Ulisa, South Dakota, who had attained national recognition and now lived in Pasadena, California, was looking for an appropriate retreat for Carmelite monks. Through the mediation of a local doctor and a priest from Sacred Heart Hospital in Yankton, this man, a Knight of Malta, met with the owners and a plan evolved for a "Chapel on the Hill." Wasting no time, he hired an architect from Carmel, California, to design a circular building to crown a steep round hill that afforded a panoramic view of the lake and surrounding country. However, after the blueprints were completed, the real businessman had a stroke and was forced to give up his proposed project.

THE HOUSE OF MARY SHRINE, LEWIS AND CLARK LAKE T105

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HOUSE OF MARY UNE, LEWIS AND CLARK LAKE

A young Catholic couple bought a small piece of land on the Lewis & Clark Lake in 1957. They prayed to Mary that day, and she came to them in a vision, promising them a shrine. They built a chapel and a rosary garden, and the shrine has grown into a major pilgrimage site.

But in the minds of a small group of believers, the dream of an edifice to God inspired them.

The group called the Rosary Makers met once a month in a cottage on the property, just outside the town of the shrine. This was during the time when devotion to the Catholic prayer form, the rosary, was undergoing a severe testing within the Church. The Rosary Makers met to proclaim their faith in the rosary making rosaries for distribution wherever they might be needed.

As they strung their decades of rosary beads and prayed and talked, the members became possessed with the idea of a replacement for the ill-fated "Chapel on the Hill".

And because they were trustees of the Marian Faith, their thoughts turned in the direction of a Shrine to honor not only God, but His Blessed Mother.

A committee of two met with Bishop Lambert Hoch, D.D., Bishop of Sioux Falls Diocese to tell him of the plan. The Bishop granted them his permission and also his approval.

The House of the Mary Shrine - the outline of the whole area.

But the by the people God will send you to develop your idea.

And the people came. Catholics and Protestants, Artists and artisans. Clergy and laymen, men, women and children. They cleared brush, made paths, cut dead trees, planted living ones. They hauled rocks, mixed cement; they dug out and built up; they sculpted and painted.

They built a "house" unto the Lord. The House of Mary Shrine was born.

The Shrine consists of three Rosary Ways - one is made of wooden beads and is a 15 decade rosary. The Sacred Heart Pond dedicated to The Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary by Bishop Hoch has a rosary around it with beads of rocks. The third Rosary Way consists of white and red roses. The Stations of the Cross wind up the hill in a wooded area. The three large crosses on top of the hill represent the 12 Stations. The Crosses can be seen from the lake and by tourists and people driving by the Shrine. The Chapel of St. Joseph is a busy place where Masses are said. There are little shrines to different Saints. Future plans call for Hermitages for quiet prayer and meditation. A House of Prayer for nuns and priests to live to carry on the ministry of prayer, and The Mother Of Peace Center.

by Mr. and Mrs. E.J. English

(See photo next page.)
ST. COLUMBA
CHURCH MAYFIELD
T106

The first church at Mayfield had its beginning on January 16, 1892. The parishioners met at the Murray School for the purpose of building a church at Mayfield, Yankton County, Dakota Territory. The Rt. Rev. George Sheehan presided at the meeting. The committee members appointed to take the donations were: John Noonan, Michael Campbell, Chris Murray, and Patrick McGillic. There were between thirty and forty subscribers including the Rt. Rev. George Sheehan and Bishop Martin Marty. The amounts pledged were from $1.00 to $50.00 and were to be paid within sixty days. The Murray School was located in section 34, Mayfield township, southeast of where Helen and Darrell McDonald and their family live today.

Michael Hogan donated 10 acres in section 28, township 96, range 55, for the building of a church and cemetery. The location was approximately one and one fourth mile west and one half mile north of the present St. Columba's Church.

The land was deeded to the Roman Catholic Church of St. Kyran April 1, 1884. The Articles of Incorporation are dated November 10, 1884. The members of the corporation were: Bishop Martin Marty; Rev. George L. Willard, Vicar General; Rev. George Sheehan, pastor; and two lay trustees, Thomas Nooney and Michael Campbell, Sr.

The Mayfield Church of St. Columba in section 34, township 96, range 55, was built in the early 1890’s while Rev. Charles Byrne was pastor. The first church burned. The cornerstone reads St. Columba’s Church 1902. The five acres in section 34 was purchased for $450.00 in April 1903 from Patrick and Anna Fitzgerald.

In 1906 since the land in section 28, was no longer used for church purposes, it was deeded back to Joseph Goebel, the landowner. The church building was to be removed within one year, and five years were allowed to remove the bodies from the cemetery.

St. Columba was attended from Yankton until the rectory was built south of the church in 1912. Rev. Anton Kippes lived in the rectory from 1912-1928 with missions at Idylwilde and Sigel. Rev. J.J. O’Brien was pastor of Mayfield from November 1929 to December 31, 1930. Rev. Bernard F. Cahill served the Mayfield Parish from January 1, 1939 to March 1939. From March 11, 1939 to July 1, 1954. Rev. P.J. O’Connor resided at Sacred Heart Hospital, Yankton, and combined his chaplaincy at the hospital with that of parish priest of Mayfield and Idylwilde.

Since 1954 Mayfield has been attended by Marj, Wakonda, Centerville, Yankton, and Lesterville.

There are two bells in the bell tower. One of the bells is from St. Bridget’s Church, Walhala, and the other bell is a tolling bell which is used for funerals.

Early church property also included two barns which were built west of the church. The barns were used to house the parishioners’ horses during church services. It was after the automobile became a common method of transportation, the barns were no longer used so they were sold. The smaller barn was moved one mile south of the church to the Diocese farm presently owned by Calvin Nelson. The bigger barn was moved south of Viborg.

In the 1900’s transportation had improved and the priest no longer wanted country so the rectory was sold.

The exterior appearance of St. Columba’s Church is much the same as it was when it was a new church. The church is a mix of red brick and concrete with steeples.

The whole structure from the outside to the inside has not changed much, and the present stands in comparison to the earlier church.

The exterior of the church shingled, painted, and a new set of concrete walk and steps added, while a most pleasing appearance from the inside is the addition and improvements made in the various areas of the church.

A banquet was served following the 1950’s renovation of the church.
ere twenty nine Irish families and 't was a mission of St. Bridgid's in 1892. The church building was 36x40 feet. The Church of St. Columba in township 96, range 50, was built in 1890's while Rev. Charles Byrne r. The first church burned. The r. reads St. Columba's Church: five acres in section 24 was for $43.50. In 1903 from d Anna Fitzgerald. since the land in section 28, was no church for purposes, it was sold to Joseph Grobel, the landowner, the building was to be removed year, and five years were allowed the bodies from the cemetery. mba was attended by Yankton city was built south of the church, Rev. Ant. Kippes lived in the 1912-1928 with missions at and Sigol. Rev. J.J. O'Brien was Mayfield from November 1926 to 31, 1935. Rev. Bernard F. Cahill Mayfield Parish from January 1, 1939. From March 11, 1939 to 34 Rev. J.P. O'Connor resided at art Hospital, Yankton, and compatibility at the hospital with that priest of Mayfield and Idylwilde. I Mayfield has been attended by akomba, Centerville, Yankton, and, two bells in the bell tower. One lill is from St. Bridgid's Church, t, and the other bell is a toiling bell used for funerals. Each property also included two chairs were built west of the church, were used to house the parishioners during church services. It was after that became a common method of seating, the chairs were never used. The smaller chair was 4 miles south of the church to the site present owned by Calvin N. D. Smar was moved south of 300's transportation had improved

and the priests no longer wanted to live in the country so the rectory was sold and moved. The exterior appearance of St. Columba’s is much the same as when it was first built, except for a new and larger entrance vestibule and steps and concrete columns were added in 1934. The following is taken from a Yankton Press and Dakota of that time. The ceremony took place November 29, 1934.

“A solemn high mass and banquet Thursday- the last week concluded the formal dedication of St. Columba's Church, Mayfield. The pro- ject, sponsored by the parish and financed by a loan from the Better Housing Plan, was begun about five weeks ago under the supervision of Mr. Peter Lynn of Irene, assisted by Rev. J.J. O’Brien and Father Unn. All unskilled labor was donated and the materials was purchased from the Central Lumber Co. of Irene.

The framework of structure from basement to steeples has had a high standing attendance at the present stands in comparison with the loveliest and best of its kind.

The exterior of the church has been shingled, painted, and a new vestibule and concrete walk and steps added, which present a most pleasing appearance from its prom- inent location on the hill. The interior is finished in a gray-brown wallboard with metal ceiling of ivory, the altar in oak and gold are the major improvements, with no details being overlooked.”

A 1934 story reading the following the ceremo- ny by the Altar Society to the priests, Benedictine Sisters, choir, altar boys, and other guests.

In the 1940’s under the supervision of Rev. P.J. O’Connor the pine trees were planted around the church yard and cemetery in memory of World War II Veterans. The Mayfield Church has a plaque in memory of our World War I veterans.

When Bishop Brady came for confirmation June 13, 1956, he blessed the New Stations of the Cross.

The 1960’s brought Vatican II and many changes in the church. The interior appear- ance of St. Columba’s changed. The major changes were the main and two side altars were remodeled, and the communion rail was removed; the main altar was made smaller and moved closer to the west wall to make room for the altar table, so the priest faces the people during Mass. The tabernacle meets the guidelines so that the Blessed Sacrament is always in the center, and a golden light above the tabernacle is always burning. All that remains of the two side altars are two shell type canopies upon which statues of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph holding the child was placed. A canopy made by the late John Osterbegeki is draped around the canopy of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The sanctuary walls were wood paneled and banners are now used.

In 1987 the basement, which is the center of many parish activities, was extensively remodeled forming a dining room, modern kitchen facilities with a large serving window between, and also modern bathrooms. A niche was built in the east wall of the dining room for a statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Removable wall partitions were made so the dining room could be used for CCD classrooms. These were replaced by dryers in 1971.

The organ and choir were moved from the balcony to the south front area of the church.

Things done to encourage more active participation in the church by the laity, as requested by Vatican II are: the Mass in English, congregational singing, guitar music, Eucharistic ministers, lay readers, parishion- ers taking part in the offertory procession.

Vatican II also brought changes in the religious education program. For many years catechism was held for a few minutes after Mass. The Baltimore Catechism was used as a text. Today grades kindergarten through high school seniors meet for Mass on Wednesday night of the school year. The Sunday Visitor series is used as a text.

Joseph Rilingmer, our pastor, law student, served us from August 1963 to June 1974. It was during his time that the idea of education, parish constitution, altar society constitution, and the cemetery association were formed.

The only building on the church property besides the church is approximately 15 x 24 ft. tool shed which is used to store church and lawn equipment. In 1984, while cleaning the tool shed in preparation for a parish auction to sell no longer used church property, some silver coins were discovered in an old vigil light stand which was stored there. These coins are in the parish’s safety deposit box at the Farmers State Bank, Irene.


by Mayfield Altar Society

MAPLE GROVE CEMETARY

T107

Maple Grove Cemetery, now Elm Grove Cemetery, located 11 miles west, ¼ mile south, and ¼ mile west, of Yankton, South Dakota, had its beginning in the early 1870's. Christian and Mathilda (Brasson) Olsen had homesteaded the S.W. 1/4 of Section 5, in Yankton County. When their first child, an infant, died of summer complaint, Christian made a little wooden casket and stained it with wild raspberry juice. Mathilda lined the casket with material from her wedding dress. They buried the infant in a corner of their pasture. Mathematics dog a little more near the ravines, and planted it at the head of the grave. When she found that the cattle had broken the little tee, Mathilda cried. In that day, four more infant graves followed. Then Christian donated an acre of the land, and planted a community cemetery and fenced it. The little cedar tee, did continue to grow, and is now a big double-trunked tree. More cedars were planted to mark graves.

In 1907, August Munksch and H.C. Miller, began the immediate community of st. Edward Olson, son of Christian and Ma- child, filed a certificate of declaration, with the Secretary of State, D.D. Wip, for the formation of a corporation, with all the legal rights and privileges thereof, under the name of Maple Grove Cemetery Association.

by Ann Schmidt
Meldal Congregational Church

In 1902 the parish consisted of Meldal Trondhjem and Zion, but in 1919 Meldal withdrew and was joined with Elin, Irma and Salem. Since 1924 Elm was joined to another parish and that left the arrangement of Meldal, Salem, and Irma.

In 1902 a tornado destroyed the first Meldal Church building. The following year a new church building was erected, but it was not dedicated until Oct. 1904. The Rev. C.J. Eastvold who was the general president of the Hauga Synod, was present for the dedication.


Five of the pastors who served are still living: E.O. Urmest, Yankton, South Dakota; L.J. Lovseth, Rothton, Minnesota; S. Engeland, St. Angelo, Iowa; Harald Olson, Burnsville, Minnesota; John N. Olson, Wasington Springs, South Dakota.

A very active ladies aid was organized March 17, 1898, a year after the congregation was organized. The Ladies Aid was named "Meldal Norwegian Lutheran Ladies Aid," whose purpose should be to spread God's word and sound doctrine, respect it among ourselves and our fellowmen.

Then too, they agreed to uphold the Lutheran Missions, donating to the missions whose need was the greatest from time to time as well as to help maintain the Church. Before going further it might be proper and as inspiring to make known the transportation method of our good mothers.

Our first thoughts tell us they did not go by the way of cars as we do. No, they had to peddle they never knew tired, so after running through a busy afternoon, getting themselves and children ready, they walked to the place of the Ladies Aid.

They did not have gravelled roads like we have, but they would travel straight across the prairie, over the hills and valleys or where it was easiest to walk.

A few bad horses and drove in spring wagon. How different from that of today, but how untried and courageous our good old pioneers were. Let us admire and respect and honor them.

In 1920 the Aid joined the Women Missionary Federation. Their yearly business meetings as well as bazaars were held at different homes until 1923, when the church was improved by the addition of a basement, when thereafter that was to be the place for their meetings and bazaars.

Much hard work was done in fancy work, such as pillow cases, doilies, crocheting of all kinds, aprons, dresses, and quilts. These items were sold usually on Thanksgiving Day, when we also served a big dinner to around five hundred people. For some of the ladies, the day would begin at six o'clock in the morning, and back at home by eight or so in the evening, having had a very full and busy day.

A fine Sunday school met every Sunday morning for Christian instruction. A young peoples' Luther League was organized which was always well attended by both young and old.

A Mission Band was organized by younger girls who were not in the I Surely God has been generous through these years since our pit the foundation and struggled with sities of the day. They bravely the early day. They were rugged a body but also in faith, to build solid sure foundation. God blessed their build his kingdom and extend it for

As the years passed the older c to feel that the work was too much This along with the changing condtions and the decreasing far tions, due to the younger ones mar from the community, brought of closing the church. So with a December 1, 1968 marked the day service conducted in Meldal Church, with a large number present occasion. The church had been ac years.

Several members of the church into full time work in the church and missionaries.

After the closing the remaining joined neighboring churches most f them.

Much of the church property, al pulpit, altar piece and so forth, a Lutheran church in Midland, i the church itself and other reli sold later.

All that remains now is a mar with a picture of the church, original bell, mounted on top of U a wrought iron sign bearing "Meldal Cemetery" is erected above and also the many loved ones, re remembering the day for the day of Resurrection.

A cemetery association has been the care of the cemetery by

Mission Hill Congregational Church

Taken from the Old Settler sec. Yearbooks

by Lena Johnson - A Rev. D.
Congregational minister from Ohio came to Dakota Territory as a missionary in the church in 1888, to "Mission on the Hill."

- Ephraim Miner. He conduct yard on the river bank in Yanit which some of the bricks were u Mission Hill Congregational Chur
- Matilda and Ed Donovan. This was between the west Second and on or near Lion Street.
- Isa West. The three Mary (Clark) Mary West, Mary Hardin DeVoe were instrumental in raising build the Congregational Church. The church still stands as origin. During the pastorate of Israel J 1889, the church celebrated its fit

The 50th Anniversary of the Meldal Lutheran Ladies Aid Society on June 5, 1938 in Center Point, South Dakota.
the parish consisted of Maldal and Zion, but in 1919 Maldal was joined with Ellin, Irene and Inyan. Since 1954 Ellin was joined to Maldal and Zion, they lived on their own, and the parish continued to be the largest in the congregation.

A Mission Band was organized for the young girls who were not in the Ladies Aid.

Surely God has been generous to us through these years since our pioneers laid the foundation and struggled with the necessities of the day. They braved the dangers of the early day. They were rugged not only in body but also in faith, to build solidly on the sure foundation. God blessed their efforts to build his kingdom and extend it far and wide. As the years passed the older ones began to feel that the work was too much for them. This along with the changing economic conditions and the decreasing farm populations, due to the younger ones moving away from the community, brought about the closing of the church. So with a sad feeling, December 1, 1968 marked the day of the last service conducted in Maldal Lutheran Church, with a large number present for the occasion. The church had been active for 89 years.

Several members of the church have gone into full-time work in the church as pastors and missionaries.

After the closing of the remaining members joined neighboring churches most convenient for them.

Much of the church property, such as pews, pulpit, altar piece and so forth, was sold to a Lutheran church in Midland, South Dakota. The church itself and other remains were sold later.

All that remains now is a marble marker with a picture of the church, and the old original bell, mounted on top of the marker. The wrought iron sign bearing the name “Maldal Cemetery” is erected above the gate and also the many loved ones, resting in the cemetery waiting for the day of the Great Reunion.

A cemetery association has been formed to continue the care of the cemetery.

by Eunice Lowe

MISSION HILL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Taken from the Old Settlers Association Yearbooks

by Lena Johnson - A Rev. D.B. Nichols, Congregational minister from Oberlin, Ohio, came to Dakota Territory as a missionary. He founded the church in 1858, known as “Mission Hill.”

- Ephraim Miner. He conducted a brick yard on the river bank in Yankton from which some of the bricks were used in the Mission Hill Congregational Church.

- Joseph and Ed DeVoe. This brickyard was between the now Second and Third Streets on or near Locust Street.

- Lida West. The three Mary’s - Mrs. (Clar) Mary West, Mary Hardin and Mary DeVoe were instrumental in raising funds to build the Congregational Church in 1888. The church still stands as originally built. During the pastorates of Israel Daniels, in 1888, the church celebrated its fiftieth anniversary.

- Hoke Johnson. His wife Lena was Deaconess of Mission Hill Congregational Church for years. She was also active in community affairs. She passed away in 1957, age 84.

- Lena Johnson. She also writes - Mrs. A.L. Van Oedel generously contributed five acres of land for the present church site and the cemetery.

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

On March 11, 1963, members of the former churches, namely: Bethabara, Bang, and Ellin considered a merger of these three congregations to form one church, and on September 7, 1963 they voted to incorporate as one church. In September of the same year it was voted to name the new congregation “Our Redeemer”, sister church to “Our Savior”, making Midway Parish a two-point parish.

On October 13, 1963 a special messenger worship was held at Elm Church. Sunday School also was organized that day with 104 pupils, 14 teachers and two officers.

October 13, 1963 was the date that it was voted to erect a steel structure for the new church. It was to be built one-quarter mile South of the Midway Store in Mayfield Township, Section 19. The land was given by Mr. and Mrs. David Bergquist. The date of the ground breaking was October 19, 1963.

The light oak panel furnishings were handmade by members of the congregation.

Our Redeemer American Lutheran Church was dedicated on April 30, 1964. Pastor Floyd Bacon was serving the parish at this time. Also at this time, the American Lutheran Church Women and the Luther League were organized.

It was on June 4, 1967 that a special service was held for the burning of the mortgage. The cornerstone was laid on April 19, 1970.

In 1974 there was an addition built. It included a storage room, pastor study, and a Sunday School room, and in 1981 a new library was built and dedicated. A senior citizen group known as Koioma was organized in 1982.

The following pastors have served this congregation: Floyd Bacon, Melvin Tatley, David Ryghaeter, Richard Zavitsko, Craig Lumsted-Vogt, and Robert Quaistnies.

May our prayer be that God will continue to bless this congregation.

by Virge L. Pearson

OUR SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN CHURCH, RURAL MENNO, SOUTH DAKOTA

On December 25, 1871 a group of Norwegian settlers, the Godbold family, first organized a Lutheran congregation to be known as the James River Congregation. They adopted a constitution patterned after one of the Norwegian Evangelical congregations of Chicago, Illinois. Officers elected were O.M. Godbold, Augustus Krog Myhre, Hans Hanson, Anders O. Fauske, Johannes Olson and J.K. Biornset.

Charter members were: K.J. Biornset, O.M. Godbold, Hans Hanson, Ole O. Godbold, Johannes Olson, Ole Fauske, Lars Oldberg, Anders O. Fauske, Andreas Erickson Myhre, and G.M. Biornset.

Earlier pastor called was Rev. Gunner Graves in 1873. Laymen of the community leading services in various homes included K.J. Biornset, Peter Godmundson, Fedar Larson, Andrew E. Godbold, and More Gundersen.

In 1877 the congregation organized parochial schools within the community to teach the young. These were first taught by Christin Biornset and then by students from our Christian schools. Later Vacation Bible Schools were taught by members of the congregation. The Sunday School was organized by 1882.

The first Christian laymen’s meeting was held in James River Congregation May 27-29, 1890, drawing people from long distances for Christian fellowship. These meetings were held in various locations in the early years of the church.

The congregation dedicated its first church building on Sunday, November 3, 1885 after a two day circuit meeting on regeneration and prayer. Rev. T.H. Dahl, president of the circuit, dedicated the building.

In 1886 some members withdrew from James River Congregation to form Norway Congregation and called H.Z. Hvid as pastor. They met at the B.O. Hagge home. They organized a Sunday School in 1890. A. Strange, Ole Lahnken and Mrs. O.A. Fauske as teachers.

The Norway Church was built in 1888-1899. It was destroyed by a tornado in 1902 and rebuilt in 1903. From that date until 1920 Norway and James River churches served their separate congregations. In 1920 they were united to form Our Savior’s Lutheran Church. Services and Sunday School were held alternately in the two churches called the East and West Churches until 1935 when the present church building was built on land donated by Cora Akland six miles south of Menno. The building committee consisted of Elvira Rasmussen, Henry Hanson, Harvey Godbold, K.B. Biornset, Henry Helgerson and Jake Fosse. This basement church served until 1948, when the present sanctuary was begun. It was completed in 1950. Serving on the building committee were Bertram Hagge, Goodwin
Our Saviors Church laying of cornerstone October 10, 1946. The dedication of the church was July 9, 1950, when the picture was taken.

Thrasam, Albert Gunderson, Meir Larson and Arthur Bjornum.

This sanctuary was built of native stone split by members of the congregation. A professional stone mason, Ike Smith, assisted by Albert Gunderson did the actual laying of the stone. Edward Raasild was head carpenter. Members of the congregation donated many hours of labor for the construction of the sanctuary.

This sanctuary was dedicated on July 9, 1950. Dr. L.A. Pierson, Bishop of the South Dakota District of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, gave the afternoon dedicatory address. Native sons of the congregation Dr. G.M. Bruce and Pastor George P. Larson spoke at the morning and evening services respectively.

The basement was insulated and panelled in 1984 and the kitchen remodelled in 1985. Various auxiliary organizations were the main social activities of the church and community. Ladies Aid, which now has become the American Lutheran Women, started in the 1880's. The Lutheran League started as a Literary Society and developed into the youth organization we now have. The men of the church had Lutheran Brotherhood, and there were also missionary societies such as Lutheran Daughters of the Reformation. These all contributed to the life and health of the congregation and community.


Prior to 1949 pastors were shared with Salem and Bethany Lutheran Churches of rural Freeman and Hurley, South Dakota.

From 1940 to the present the formation of the present Our Redeemer Lutheran Church of rural Irene, the four congregations of Bang, Bethlehem, Elim and Our Savior's shared ministry of the same pastors.

In 1963, Bang, Bethlehem and Elim united to form Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, thus forming a two-point parish consisting of Our Redeemer and Our Savior's congregations. Our Redeemer congregation built their present sanctuary at the site near the jointly owned parsonage.

Our Savior's congregation celebrated its 75th anniversary September 14-15, 1946 with former Pastor L.L. Masted, J.M. Runstad and O.H. Brodland giving messages. Dr. G.M. Bruce and Pastor George P. Larson, Pastor Virgil Bjerke and Judge Lewis Larson also gave messages.

Its centennial celebration was held on August 15th, 1971.

Since 1960 our Savior's congregation has been a member of the American Lutheran Church. Its present baptized membership numbers approximately 110. The early membership consisted largely of people of Norwegian background, so services were held in the Norwegian language until the 1950's when a gradual change to English was accomplished. The present membership boasts members from different ethnic backgrounds. We praise God in 1985 for well over a century of ministry to the community.

by Mr. Meir Larson

RIVERVIEW PARK REFORMED CHURCH

Riverview Park Reformed Church, located at 708 East 19th Street in Yankton, belongs to one of the oldest denominations in this country, the Reformed Church in America. The first congregation was organized in 1628 by Dutch colonists in New Amsterdam (now New York City). The formation of other congregations followed, bringing the total to nearly one hundred at the time of the Revolution, a figure that doubled by 1830. Meanwhile, the denomination gradually became Americanized, retaining, however, the Calvinistic doctrinal standards that had been adopted in the Netherlands during the Protestant Reformation — the Helvetic Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism, and the Canons of Dort. Also kept intact was much of the old polity, including the hierarchy of representative bodies known as the consistory, classes, particular synods, and General Synod.

Most of the 200 Reformed churches in 1830 were located in New York and New Jersey, with a few in Pennsylvania, but the denomination soon began expanding westward across the Allegheny Mountains. Until the Second World War, churches established in the Middle West drew some of their membership from among persons belonging to Reformed churches in the East that had moved westward but especially from among immigrants of Reformed background who came from the Netherlands and Germany in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and

children of these immigrants. It is this immigrant heritage that found its organizations in South Dakota, including those at Lam Fall, Springfield, and Piota, to mention a few. The growth of the Reformed Church in South Dakota before about 1900 was largely internal, with little outflow people who were not already of the faith. Fortunately, this has changed in recent decades, and Riv Reformed Church is a good example of this healthy transformation. Although today includes members of German background, other ethnic backgrounds are also well represented. Moreover, Riv Reformed Church includes persons from a variety of backgrounds, including Pr Methodists, Mormons, Roman C.

Yankton Reformed Church, initially called, began as a small outreach by the denominations of North America in the late 1800's and the early 1900's. It was these two bodies which eventually formed the Reformed Church in America, the denomination which established the Reformed Church in Yankton, the society in which it is located. Riv Reformed Church, along with the other Reformed churches in South Dakota, is a member of the Reformed Church in America, the denomination whose formation in 1830 is celebrated this year.

Various donations helped the forming of its early years. The first example, a gift to the church, was given by a Luthern near Tripp, and the second set of donations was made by the Reformed Church in Hull, Iowa. This gift was made by Mr. and Mrs. Meir Larson, Sr., of Yankton.
Riverview Park Reformed Church located at 700 E. 19th, Yankton, South Dakota.

by Members of the Consistory

SACRED HEART PARISH

Catholic life begins at Baptism, and the Catholic life that was to become the Sacred Heart Parish, Yankton, began on June 3, 1840, when the principal, Christopher Hoecken, baptized some Sioux Indian children somewhere in or near the present site of Yankton. The record of this baptism is the first, official record of a Catholic sacrament administered—the beginning of a Community of Faith that today (1980) numbers more than 3000 members in over 2000 households in Yankton County, South Dakota.

From Father Christopher Hoecken’s baptizing to today’s activity at Fifth and Capitol Streets, there has always been a record of generous men and women who believed and gave witness to their belief to establish a parish, erect these churches, conduct a private school, provide young men and women to serve as priests and religious, and establish family life to continue that Catholic traditions that are anchored to life with the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, Penance, Confirmation, Anointing of the Sick, Matrimony and Holy Orders.

In the early days of Catholicism in Yankton the names and dates are sporadic. Father Pierre Jean DeSmet, another Jesuit, ministered to the Indians in the Yankton area as did Augustine Favozio, a French priest from the Diocese of St. Paul, Minnesota. Both Father Hoecken and Father DeSmet came from the Jesuit House at St. Louis, Missouri. Their native origin was Belgium.

It was not until January 21, 1871, that a priest was assigned to develop the Catholic community of Yankton into a parish. His
name was Valentine Sommereseen, an Austrian by birth, assigned by the Bishop of St. Paul to the small family of Catholics, who were organizing a city on the banks of the Missouri River in Dakota Territory. His first recorded act was, again, a Baptist - the Baptism of Franks, son of German and Mary Donohue, on September 23, 1871.

Father Sommereseen constructed a church-house at Ninth and Capitol for his fledgling congregation of settlers, traders, boatmen, government officials but, to his dismay, no Indians. In search of the Native American he often left his stone square headquarters to travel the prairies, and in time his forays created much tension among the Yankton Catholics who wanted a priest of their own, not a peripatetic, occasional pastor who would ring his church-house bell to alert them to his seldom-at-home masses.

In October of 1870 he left Yankton in a fit of pique, and the Catholics were given over to the pastoral care of a Frenchman, Pierre Bedard who served them only a few months. Others followed, none of them very permanent, until George L. Willard arrived in 1881 - about the same time another priest came to Dakota Territory, a Benedictine Abbot Martin Marty who, too, came in search of an Indian mission vocation.

Abbot Marty came to Yankton as the Vicar Apostolic, Missionary Bishop, of the Dakotas. He located his Cathedral at Sacred Heart which by then was a simple frame structure of wood and brick, built to replace the Sommereseen house-church with the bell that rang too seldom for the Catholic people.

During Father Willard's five year tenure as Pastor of Sacred Heart he also served as Vicar General to Bishop Marty and Sacred Heart was, indeed, the Mother Church of the Catholics in Dakota. This happy honor was enjoyed by the Yankton community until 1875 when Bishop Marty moved his residence to Sioux Falls to establish the Diocese of Sioux Falls...the days as missionary diocese were over.

After several short-term appointments, the Yankton Catholics finally entered into a stable era when on January 25, 1885, Bishop Marty assigned Lawrence Link, newly ordained, to be pastor of Sacred Heart and assume charge in the once-prosperous Cathedral that was already too small for its growing congregation.

Father (later the Right Reverend Monsignor) Lawrence Link served as Pastor of Sacred Heart for over forty years, until his death on August 9, 1946. During that time he constructed an imposing brick church, established a parish school, presided at the inauguration of a Court of the Catholic Daughters of America and a Council of the Knights of Columbus, and saw Yankton grow from a dusty, river- served pioneer town to become a thriving urban community nestled at the tailwaters of one of the largest earthen dams in the world and surrounded by some of the richest farm land in the Midwest.

During these developing years the people of Sacred Heart Parish welcomed the Sisters of Mercy who established a private school for girls in 1895, then the Sisters of St. Ann of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and in 1877 the Sisters of St. Benedict who have been partners to parish life and have served as teachers, administrators, choir directors and organists, sacristans, and catechists ever since.

When Monsignor Link died in August 1946, the pioneer link of Sacred Heart Parish died with him. The little community that once Father Valentine Sommereseen had become a parish family numbering in the thousands with a private school and a host of social activities that were part of Catholic life at that time.

Father James A. Reilly (also to be named a Monsignor later on) followed the Link pastorate in October 1946 and moved into the frame parish house at 500 Capitol with his library of books and a small supply of ashes. His pastorate was to last about 21 years during which time he organized the Legion of Mary to serve as evangelists to the laity. Catholics and welcomed to those who moved into Yankton. His voluminous reading prompted rather dry and scholarly sermons, but his leadership prompted the Catholics to build a gymnasium- auditorium to enlarge their school programs and to memorialize Monsignor Link, a spacious parish house and office building, and in 1967 a new church to replace the brick church constructed by his predecessor in 1905, but which was no longer adequate for the size of the parish nor adapted to the needs of the new liturgy - the first fruits of Vatican Council II.

Monsignor Reilly did not see the new church finished but died in November of 1967 and passed the reins of the parish on to one of his former associates, the Rev. Andrew H. Foley, who oversaw the construction of the new church.

On October 20, 1968, Bishop Lambert Hoch blessed the new church which today is the gathering place of Catholics of Sacred Heart Parish - just down the hill from the square stone edifice which was Father Sommeseen's church-house almost a century before.

Father Foley transferred to another Sacred Heart - in Aberdeen - in 1969 and another former associate returned to Yankton as Pastor of the river city flock. He was Donald L. Liepold whose ten year service was marked with all the tumult and stress of the Vatican II directives for Catholic life and the political pains of the Viet Nam war.

Father Liepold's decade of service as pastor was marked with the tensions as well as the excitement of the changes in Catholicism decreed by the Vatican Council and under his pastoral charge the parish met these challenges with some innovative programs in catechesis and an emphasis on the liturgy. He established the Family Program wherein the religious instruction of children and adults to the practice of prayer and the celebration of a Sunday Mass in Link Auditorium. He introduced the use of cantors to lead the congregation in singing — an almost impossible feat in most Catholic parishes. During his pastorate the Parish Council was established; a Sacred Heart School Board was established; Benedictine Novices were assigned places in the parish liturgies, and he bore the weight of presiding over a church in turmoil — some excited about these new developments and some distressed at any changes at all.

Serious health problems forced Father Liepold to resign his office, and on February 13, 1980, the Rev. Thomas J. Ryan became the tenth priest to serve as Pastor of Sacred Heart.

There is more to a parish than the priests who serve as pastors, "sicut pastor, sicut gregis" (as is the pastor, so is the flock) allows us to record the life of Sacred Heart Parish by reviewing the priests who served as pastors, for their style and leadership determined the growth and activities of the parish.

As Sacred Heart Parish stands, at this second centennial, it is a far cry from the little band of pioneers who gathered in the house-church of Father Sommeseen in 1857 to the present. In 1980 it included a census of 1500 active households and about 5000 households and individuals who are nominal members of the church. Sacred Heart School has an enrollment of 155 students of the parish, from kindergarten through grade eight. In the pastoral years the staff has grown from a curate who has been largely lay people, although four Benedictine Sisters still serve as teachers or aides. The
SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH, IRENE, SOUTH DAKOTA

The Salem Lutheran Congregation was organized July 24, 1883, and the Rev. L.A. Iven who helped organize it was called as its first pastor. There was, however, a congregation known as "Turkey Creek Congregation which was served for a short time by Rev. John Alsbury, who lived near Beresford. Early services were held in the homes of members, and also the Hix School House which at that time was located two miles west and one mile north of Irene. The Rev. Iven served this congregation for two years. His yearly salary was $51.00 paid semi-annually plus three offerings.

Charters members of the Congregation were: John Olson Edal, Ings Fredrickson, Lena Goldhammer, Ole Lisbo, Sr., Stengrim Hintseh, Soren Skalstad, John Moon, Ber- borg Reese, John Nodland, and Halvor Reese. It is interesting to note that while the wives and children are not listed as charter members they were included by virtue of the husband and father.

The first officers serving were: Pastor Iven, Chairman; John Moen, Secretary; John Olson Edal, Treasurer; Lena Goldham- mer and Halvor Reese, Trustees; John Nod- land and Svigard Hino, Deacons. Ber- borg Reese and Stengrim Hintseh were the first Sunday school teachers. At a business meeting held in July, 1884, at the John Nodland home, Mr. K.O. Lokken was elected as the first parochial school teacher with sessions to be held in September. Committees selected to solicit funds and to formulate plans for building a church included Ole Haugen, Halvor Reese, Stengrim Hintseh, and Iver Fagerhaug.

In 1900, a letter of call was extended to the Rev. C.J. Olberg to serve the congregation temporarily. He was at the time serving the Zion and Trondeljem Congregations.

In 1903, the church was built on land donated by Halvor Heviel. Several tombstones bearing burial dates in the 1890's would indicate that this land had been a cemetery a number of years. It is now known as Pioneer Cemetery and is well maintained. About 1893 a windmill was added to the church in 1903. After funds had been solicited to pay off a $800 indebtedness on the church, the work was completed in 1922.

This time it was built a little north of the original house on the same land which was purchased from Mr. and Mrs. Stengrim Hintseh. This also included land for a cemetery. This project was completed in 1903.

In 1906, Rev. C.J. Olberg was called to be the pastor and at that time he moved to Irene, since he was also serving Immanuel, Meldahl, and Ellen congregations. He served until 1917.


The Sunday School became the only organization within the church closed by the Ladies Aid organized in 1938. This meeting was held at the Ole Lisbo farm house. The Rev. Iven was the first Sunday school man. Charter members were: Mrs. A. Ewes- son, Mrs. John Moen, Mrs. Ellen Nodland, Mrs. Sigrid Bramson, Mrs. Stengrim Hintseh, Mary Hintseh, Hannah Hintseth Los, Ella M. Brandle, Mrs. Olson Edal, Mrs. Halvor Reese, Mrs. Ole Lisbo, Mrs. Berborg Reese, and Mrs. Lena Goldhammer. The next several years they were joined by Mrs. Dan and Mrs. Chris Nodland, Mrs. Erick Sather, Ings Sather Evenson, Marit Reese, Mrs. O.B. Reese, Mrs. C. Thompson, Mrs. S.O. Vogfjell, Mrs. Iver (Ida) Fagerhaug, Mrs. John Edle, Mrs. Guullick Evenson, and Mrs. Willi Jenson.

The first officers were: S. Hintseh, president, who served for 14 years; secretary, John Moen; treasurer, John Olson Edal, Mrs. S. Hintseh and Mrs. Olson Edal were elected as "bestyers" or leaders. The men continued to hold offices until 1930 when the women assumed full leadership in their organization. The Dorcas Society, an organization for younger girls, and the Luther League were also active organizations. At various times choirs were also active.

For a period of several years, the problem of overcrowded conditions for the Sunday School in the Lutheran Church in Irene had been studied and in the fall of 1964 that congregation began to look seriously into building an addition or renovating. When that didn't seem practical, they proposed to build a new plant and to ask neighboring congregations to merge with them and join in the project. Salem had for some time been facing with a declining membership due mainly to a decline in the rural population. This merger proposal was received with mixed feelings -- many reluctant to abandon the congregation and church home which had meant so much to those who had organized and built it, as well as those who came after to reap the benefits of their labors. Committees were formed to negotiate procedures, many meetings were held, and eventually the merger of these two congregations became a reality.

The date of official merger was September 4, 1966. The name chosen for the new church was Calvary Lutheran Church. On this same occasion the Rev. John N. Olson was installed as Calvary's first pastor. A building committee worked on plans for a new church, and groundbreaking occurred on July 18, 1965. The first service was held on June 18, 1968.

The church building which had stood at the location two and one half miles west of Irene for more than sixty years was burnt, but the bell in the belfry which was salvaged. These many years was carefully removed and installed in the tower of the new church together with the one from the Irene church. A monument was erected at the site of the former church, and the cemetery is still being used and is well tended.

by Mrs. Merle Johnson

SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH

The Seventh-day Adventist message entered the Dakota Territory by means of Advent- ist literature sent to the home of Nelis Peter Nelson (South Dakota) about 1873. Nelson was convinced of the correctness of what he read and shared his convictions with a neighbor, O.A. Frederik- son (Nebraska), who read the literature and was impressed, and summoned the first Seventh-day Adven- tist minister to enter the Dakota Territory, John F. Hansen, who organized the first Seventh-day Adventist church in the Terri- tory among the Scandinavian families in Swan Lake in 1875. When the Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists was organized in 1879, the charter churches were the Danish group in

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Yankton Seventh-Day Adventist Church located near 6th and Linn Street.

Swan Lake (Turner County), a Danish church in Sunnyside (Clay County), a Swedish group at Big Springs (Union County), and an English group at Elk Point (Union County). By 1880 more churches came into being in the Yankton area, including Adventist churches at Tandall and Springfield, and at Immelman Creek (Bon Homme County). These early churches were generally rural, the church members being largely farming people. The churches were forced to be self-sufficient, since they saw a minister only occasionally when in the course of arduous travels through a circuit of many churches, he would arrive at a church to assist with the communion and footwashing services, to perform weddings or funerals, or to hold evangelistic meetings. In the interim the scattered believers were held together by reports and messages in the Adventist paper, The Review and Herald, or the Scandinavian equivalent, Advent Tidende.

Around 1915 meetings were held in the home of Mrs. Emilia Magera of Yankton, who was interested in the Adventist message. From time to time the group was visited by Pastor E.H. Oswald, and during one of his visits Mrs. Magera was baptized and became a Seventh-Day Adventist. Others followed, and the early roll of this company of believers lists the names Bowers, Manley, Brewer, Ribley, McCorken, and Brooker. In 1918 another series of evangelistic meetings were held in the G.R.A. Hall in Yankton by Pastor Barcan. When more Adventists moved in we had a meeting in a box factory in Yankton, the group became too large for the Magera home and rented the upstairs rooms of the Odd Fellows Hall. When the group was later reduced in size, they again began meeting in the homes of the members where they met until the purchase of the present church, located near 6th and Linn, from the St. John’s Lutheran congregation in 1945.

It is unclear whether the church was formally organized in these intervening years before having a church building of its own; it is not clear that at times the group of Adventists in Yankton dwindled to a very small number. In any case, an organizational meeting was held in the newly-acquired church building on December 15, 1945, under the direction of a Pastor Densum. Among those taken into the church were: Dr. A.M. Allen, who was named lay elder of the church; Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Avery, Richard and Lillie Rose Dybdahl; Joseph and Nora Wolfe and their children, Alvin and Shirley; Mattie and Harry King; Miss Lillian Pavill; Miss Dala Kielbach; and Miss Frances Magera.

There have been many changes in the intervening years. Many of the original families have moved away, and a number of new families have come. The church building itself was remodeled in 1970, and a foyer added to the front of the building. The church has both a piano and an organ, and space for the teaching of children and adults enrolled in the Sabbath School program. The church also owns a building for use as a Seventh-day Adventist elementary school, which has operated until recently.

Through the years the church has led out in various community service programs, the most popular of which has been the 5-Day Plan to Stop Smoking, a concept which was pioneered by Seventh-day Adventists.

The families, who have the longest history with the Yankton Adventist church and with the community of Yankton, include: Dennis and Loretta Wolfe of rural Mission Hill; Martin and Evelyn Gall of Yankton; Helen Welby of Yankton; Alvin Tichy (formerly Mrs. John Gall) of Yankton; and, recently deceased, Mrs. Francis Hedelton (formerly Francis Magera) of Yankton. Recent pastors include: Don Sales, Myron Johnson, Jim Parsme, Weldon Treel, Melvin Walgren, and (present) Loren Seibold.

The Seventh-day Adventist church is a protestant Christian church which came into being in the mid-1850s among Christians of many faiths who had followed the teaching of a popular Baptist preacher, William Miller. Miller taught on the basis of the prophecies of the book of Daniel that the second coming of Christ would take place in the year 1844. Those who waited were, of course, sadly disappointed; but it became clear to them from this experience that they ought to preach widely the second coming of Jesus Christ. Added to this was the conviction that obedience to God meant obeying the Ten Commandments, including the 4th commandment which specifies the 7th day of the week as the day of worship.

In many of its doctrines Seventh-day Adventists have beliefs similar to those held by other conservative evangelical churches. Examples include a belief in the Holy Trinity and in Jesus Christ as the divine Son of God, in the Bible as the Christian’s only rule of faith and practice, in baptism by immersion, and in salvation only by faith in Jesus Christ. Distinctive emphases include the 7th day (Saturday) Sabbath as the day of worship, the soon coming of Jesus Christ, and a belief that the Christian’s response to salvation includes obedience to God in all aspects of life, from health and appearance to leisure activities to education. In the service of good health, Adventists operate the largest non-profit health care system in the United States, Adventist Health Systems.

The church also operates a number of fully-accredited elementary and secondary schools, colleges, and seminaries. There are about five million Seventh-day Adventists in the world, over one million of which have been added in the past three years alone, making the Seventh-day Adventist church one of the world’s fastest growing churches.

— Submitted by Pastor Loren Seibold, pastor, Yankton Seventh-day Adventist Church

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by Loren Seibold

ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH

The history of St. John’s Evangelical Lutheran Church at Yankton, South Dakota, began as an outgrowth of traveling missionary work performed among settlers of German descent who arrived in 1873. The church was organized as an ‘American’ church in 1875 by Minister Graf of Rosenberg Parish near Mission Hill, South Dakota. The church was organized in the year 1880 by Pastor Schmuck of Centerville and the following place: Rosenberg, Schmuck and Martinius. Pastor Schmuck also sold services in private homes in Yankton year 1880, Pastor J. Bernthal served a above places.

St. John’s Lutheran Church was organized by Pastor G. Rumsch in 1882. He served this large parish 1 years, when in 1886 he accepted at Claremont, Minnesota.

In the same year, Martinius L. Church near Utica, South Dakota, organized. The early services of M were conducted in the home of a Kiersteman. Pastor Rumsch still serves as pastor and mission pastor lived at Rosenberg. He also had at Centerville at the time since they had been.

When Pastor Rumsch accepted a position at Claremont, he called Pastor Bumsch from City, Iowa, to take charge of the serv of the church in the interim period. In 1888, Pastor William Licht, accepted and was installed on September 2, 1 Pastor Rumsch in Rosenberg and Y. During the course of the week, I informed as pastor of Martinius L. Church near Utica.

During the time that Pastor Licht w. Martinius House of Worship was built on the seventh Sunday Church was dedicated on the seventh Sunday in 1894. Pastor P. Zeibel was speaker for the day. This still did not end.
the pastor would have meetings at Rosen-
berg, Yankton, and the home of Schaefer.

In July 1904 Pastor Waeuchter accepted a call to Appleton, Minnesota. Candidate Paul Hempel of St. Louis was called and came at once. He lived with the former pastor for about two weeks. On July 8 Pastor Waeuchter moved from Rosenberg.

Pastor Hempel was installed by Pastor H.F.W. Gerike on the eighth Sunday after Trinity 1904. He was installed in Rosenberg in the morning service and in the afternoon in Yankton. Yankton did not call him as pastor.

Pastor Hempel received a call to Parkston. After they called him for the third time, the District President recommended that he should accept this call. This he did and left this parish.

During the years 1909 to 1912 Pastor F. Von Braschitsch served the congregations. Pastor Braschitsch retired, and we find Pastor J.A. Schamber of Centerville serving the congregation at Rosenberg. Yankton and Martinus were served by Pastor E.P. Bayer.

On August 4, 1912, Candidate Richard Schamber was installed at the Rosenberg Church near Mission Hill, South Dakota, by vacancy Pastor J.A. Schamber of Centerville.

At that time the parish included the congregations at Rosenberg, St. John’s Yankton, Martinus, Ulca, and a preaching place at Repp School where English was used. Services were held on one Sunday at Rosenberg, on St. John’s, and the following Sunday at Martinus and Repp School.

During Schamber’s pastorate at these places the trips to the churches were made by horse and buggy. Many hardships prevailed.

Pastor Schamber retired in 1916, and Pastor C.W. Schaefer was called in the fall of 1915 and served until October 1943. Up to this time, the congregation had worshipped in the little white frame church located at 485 West Sixth Street. It is not known when the old church was built. It is said that the structure originally stood on Broadway north of the railroad tracks, somewhere near the old Edward Winkelmann house. A later church was organized and sponsored monthly services over KAX. Since the little frame church no longer served the needs of a growing congregation, a new church was located at Eighth and Locust Streets.

A building committee was appointed for the planning of a new church at a cost not to exceed $75,000. The new church was erected early in the spring of 1942 and was dedicated on December 13, 1942.

Ground Breaking Ceremonies on April 21, 1938 at 10th and Jackson, L. R. Pete List, Elmer Koehl, Morgan Powler, Pastor Weiland, Myron Berber, Ron Heuer, and Bill Boucka.

ST. JOHN’S HERAN CHURCH

STORY of St. John’s Evangelical Church at Yankton, South Dakota, an outgrowth of travel and prayer performed among settlers of Ger-

Rite Parish near Mission Hill, South Dakota in 1875.

NORTH Dakota was organized in the year 1871. The name at that time was Immmanuel Lutheran Church. Their first pastor was Pastor Frank Dorecher. Martinus and Yankton were mentioned at that time, and after the founding of these three congregations, they had to be served a number of years from Centerville, which seemed to have taken the leading role at that time.

In the year 1879 we find a Pastor Andrew Mueller of Centerville who then preached at the following places: Rosenberg, Schmidgall, and Martinus. Pastor Mueller also conducted services in a private home in Yankton. In the year 1880, Pastor J. Bernhard served all of the above places.

St. John’s Lutheran Church was formally organized by Pastor G. Rumsch in the year 1882. He served this large parish for four years, when in 1886 he accepted a call to Claremont, Minnesota.

In the same year, Martinus Lutheran Church near Ulca, South Dakota, was organized. The early services of Martinus were conducted in the home of a certain Kistmann. Pastor Rumsch still served the same congregations and mission places, but lived at Rosenberg. He also had to serve Centerville at the time since they had become vacant.

When Pastor Rumsch accepted a call in 1886, they called Pastor Rumsch from Sioux City, Iowa, to take charge of the services. He served a short interim period. In the year 1888, Pastor William Licht, accepted the call and was installed on September 2, 1888, by Pastor Rumsch in Rosenberg and Yankton. During the course of the week, he was installed as pastor of Martinus Lutheran Church near Ulca.

During the time that Pastor Licht was here, Martinus House of Worship was built and dedicated on the seventh Sunday after Trinity in 1884. Pastor F. Zabel was the speaker for the day. This still did not take away some of the work. Besides having regular services, the following places had to be served; namely Jacob Schmidgall, Andreas Voll, the school near the Philip Rempp place, and sometimes in the home of Mr. Ganske if the services were conducted west of the hill, and in the Andrew Brunschmol-
der home if conducted east of the hill.

He served this parish for twelve years, and ten of those years he had to serve Centerville. In February of 1900 he received and accepted a call. He did not leave until the new pastor had accepted to serve this parish.

 Pastor Martin Waeuchter was called and accepted. He was installed on April 1, 1900, so the congregation did not have to suffer due to a vacancy. The installation took place in the morning at Rosenberg; in the afternoon he was installed in Yankton by Pastor J.D. Ehlen. He was called to serve Rosenberg, Martinus, Yankton, and Schmidgall.

He would preach once Sunday in Rosenberg and Yankton, and the following Sunday in Martinus and Schmidgall. The Schmidgall place was either in their home, or else it would be conducted in the Repp School House.

It was during the coming years that the purity of the church was to be proven. It wasn’t long when many of the members moved away from Rosenberg, and the church became smaller and smaller. The same thing also held true of the Schmidgall preaching station.

For two years things went well in Yankton, and then it was found that many of the members had united themselves with a secret organization, which then meant long and bitter years of meetings, in which the others soon left the church and organized their own church.

In spite of the troubles, we find that Pastor Waeuchter conducted regular church at Rosenberg. He also conducted regular confirmation instruction at Rosenberg, and the congrega-
tions would see that the children would be brought there. It would even become neces-
sary at times to keep them over night. The following years brought some adults who were interested in becoming members, and

by Loren Seibold

Lutheran located at 10th and Jackson.
Pastor Rehwoldt accepted a call in 1945 to serve Granite Falls, Minnesota. Pastor Bram- meier came in the year of 1944 and served only a few months before he passed away suddenly as a result of a ruptured appendix on February 13, 1945. Pastor W.P. Haak became the pastor in 1945 and served until 1954. Pastor Martinus and Jan van Schalkwyk, also as chaplains of the State Hospital. In 1946 the two remaining congregations became separate parishes, with Pastor Haak serving St. John's. In 1947 Pastor Haak accepted a call to Sioux City, Iowa, as chaplain. Pastor Walter E. Haas was installed on December 5, 1954, and served until 1964 when he accepted a call to Pierce, Nebraska.

The parish was served by Rev. George Baumgartner, State Hospital Chaplain, until Rev. Lloyd Weiland was installed in June 1965. The Weilands moved here from Boonville, Missouri, where he served as pastor for four years, and was also part-time chaplain at the Women's State Penitentiary in Tipton, Missouri.

In 1966 a Needs Committee composed of two representatives from each organization in the parish was organized and met for four months determining the spiritual uplifting programs and the need for a new church home. At this juncture, the congregation appointed a "Building" needs committee who checked and visited 15 churches. A building committee composed of seven members. The members were to determine a feasible church plan. The voters adopted the plan supplied by Spitzenagel, Partners Inc. of Sioux Falls with Wally Steele as architect. The plan was approved by the voters in the spring by a margin of more than a 50% majority. The church extension fund of $50,000.00 in the Dakota district made a $300,000 loan available to St. John's to erect a new church. The ground breaking ceremonies were held April 21, 1968. On May 21, 1968, parishioners gathered for the dedication of a ceremonial "Unlocking of Doors," preparatory to the formal dedication of the building. Pastor Weiland accepted a call in 1972 to Hiigliiville, Missouri. Pastor Heckler was the pastor until 1973, when James F. Hawley, Sr. arrived in March and was installed in April 1, 1973, and is still serving St. John's.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH AT LAKEPORT

The nucleus of St. John the Baptist Church began to form as soon as the first Czech settlers came to the Dakota Territory. These first immigrants from Bohemia arrived by barge coming across the Missouri River to Yankton in the summer of 1852-1853.

The first three early Czech pioneers, who were all Catholic, met for common worship in the home of Frank Nedwed, who as a boy was very active in his native parish in Bohemia and as a young man considered to study for the priesthood. Then in 1870 they decided to build a church. They constructed a small frame church, which it is written, was placed between the chalkrock blocks where the walls were being constructed. The site of the church where the limestone was laid down is still evident on the Kenneth Schneider farm. In 1910, Ray Records of Columbus, Nebraska, recorded a record in the Saint Wenceslaus Church in Tabor. The name of the record is Czech Christmas Carols. The singing was done by the Saint Wenceslaus choir. The last number "Ticha Noe" on side two, has recorded the sound of the ringing bell that once stood in front of the Lakeport Church.

My mother, Mrs. Anna Pesicka tells me about helping clean up the Lakeport Church and Father Raymond Komanc saying mass there on August 15, 1942. This was going to be an annual event, but due to such few people attending the service it was not continued.

The cemetery is maintained by the Tabor parish. Many of the early settlers and pioneers and their families are buried in the cemetery.

The Saint John the Baptist Church is the only original building remaining on the site where it was built, in what was the unincorporated village of Lakeport, South Dakota. The following preists have served the parish from 1882-1907: Rev. Joseph L. Kriaz (1882-1883); Rev. Thomas A. Riley (1884); Rev. Joseph Weitzenhofer (1885); Rev. Thomas L. Rabeistle (1885-1886); Rev. Wendelmann, Rev. (1886-1887); Mag. Emmanuel Bouskua (1894-1896); Mag. Lawrence L. Link (1896-1903); and Mag. Emmanuel Bouskua (1903-1907).

by Romaine T. Pesicka

TRONDHJEM ALCW

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Immigration to the prairies in this area of Dakota Territory from Norway began possibly in 1860 or 65. Each year found added numbers of new arrivals, taking up homesteads and as well as being responsible for getting a home established in a dugout.

Among their personal effects taken with them were their Bibles, hymn books, catechisms, and devotional books. Their worship, at first, consisted of their own family devotional time and also a few families together in their homes later meeting in schoolhouses until the consecration was organized in 1872.

There were not many women, but many were the sacrifices and the sufferings they endured. The majority had only small quarters in which to entertain and had very little of temporal means. They had, however, great generosity and hospitality of heart.

Now this concern for missions began to take root in the hearts of the pioneers, and for this purpose, a group of eight ladies gathered one day in December, 1873, in the Ole Anne dugout to discuss the mission need, and, thus, Trondhjems Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Ladies Aid was organised (but known as West Prairie). The ladies present were: Mrs. Irene Loevice Gustad, Mrs. Andreas (Helema) Anne, Mrs. Hellarag (Guri) Hagen, Mrs. Benjamin (Baret) Haugan, Miss Martha Storm (later the second wife of Sturgrin Hinrath), Mrs. Olav (Oloha) Skanoe, Mrs. Harry Jensen; Mrs. Malvera Groe Carl Johnson. Third row L to R: Mrs. Carl Bakke; Mrs. Gunnar Hanson; Miss J
When the women held their meetings, there was a definite time set aside for hymn singing from the “Vaegteren” and the reading of the word of God, meditation, and prayers. This was conducted by one or two men. The balance of the time was devoted to working, cutting out garments, sewing (had no machines at that time), and knitting. Guri Hagen’s husband, Hellang, was a tailor by trade and cut out overalls for the women to wear. Shirts, overalls, and other apparel were sold at auction, and this money was used for missions. Walking or horse and buggy were their means of transportation to the meetings.

Rev. Carlson on April 5, 1888, wrote the constitution which was signed by Mrs. Hele- na Aune, Mrs. Martha Skanze, Mrs. Johanna Skanze, Mrs. Louise Gustad, Miss Ingeborg Hansen, and Mrs. Karen Skanze. One statement in the constitution read, “One man, treasurer, shall be chosen from the congregation to keep the records for the business and the money and pay bills as ordered by annual meetings.”

On December 30, 1886, a group of ladies on the North Prairie met at the home of Ole C. Gorseth and organized into another mission organization, which chose the name North Prairie Ladies Aid. The ladies present were: Mrs. O.C. Gorseth, Mrs. Cornelia Nelson, Mrs. Sten Bakke, Mrs. Halvor Simonson, and Mrs. Cornelia Jarek. Mrs. Gorseth’s daughter, Annie, (later Mrs. Iver Burke), who also was known as a charter member. Mrs. O.C. Gorseth was elected president and Mrs. Peter Gorseth the treasurer. Their meetings were conducted much the same as their sister organization, the Norwegian language being used. These mission groups worked within the congregation sponsoring auctions, ice cream socials, church supper and other events. The July 4th celebrations. The first was probably held in 1894. These July 4th gatherings featured home made ice cream, and the meals were served family style. They were held at a home that had large parking areas and a large grove of trees for shade. Later a large tent was purchased, and it was from there that the meals were served. For the girls it meant a new dress and for the boys, firecrackers. A religious program was held both in afternoon and evening, this was in the 1920’s. By this time both sisters and Luther League sponsored this event. Auctioneers for the sales were Hans C. Hanson for the West Prairie Aid and Henry Knuston of Centerville also; and Peter and Ole Moen for the North Prairie.

In the American language began to replace the Norwegian in both Aids. In 1928 North Prairie elected their first lady treasurer, and in 1933 the West Prairie elected Mrs. Clifford Hanson as the first lady treasurer. Both Aid groups joined the Women’s Missionary Federation and adopted all the topics and supported all departments of this Federation. Special programs were held in the church to observe the 50th, 60th, and 70th anniversaries of the West Prairie Ladies Aid.

In 1944, the Nydhem’s L.D.R. was organized in 1944. The purpose of the Luther Daugh-
The ALCW of 1973. Front row L-R: Dora Olson; Mrs. Herman Hanson; Mrs. Ole Lien; Mrs. Sigurd Bakke; Mrs. Lloyd Low; Mrs. Oscar Aune; Mrs. Martin Johnson; Anna Gorath. Second row L-R: Mrs. Glen Fagerlund; Mrs. Curtis Moen; Mrs. Orla Lien; Mrs. Clifford Hanson; Mrs. Bertel Gustad; Mrs. Reinhard Olson; Mrs. Hector Gustad; Mrs. Clifford Lien; Third row L-R: Beatrix Jensen; Mrs. George Pederson; Mrs. Chris Nyhus; Mrs. Chester Gorath; Helma Ellis; Mrs. Howard Olson; Mrs. Glenn Ramquist; Mrs. Allen Hansen. Fourth row L-R: Mrs. Peter Christiansen; Mrs. Oscar Ride; Mrs. Harold Nyhaug; Mrs. Robert Bjorkan; Mrs. Luke Bakke; Mrs. Harlan R. Hanson; Mrs. Eldred Gustad. Fifth row L-R: Mrs. Dale Cooke; Mrs. Freian Aune; Mrs. Arthur Aune; Mrs. Virgil Mellen; Mrs. Elmer Low; Mrs. Dene Williams; and Mrs. Honey Stenze.

West Prairie Aid supported both foreign and home missions with China the largest amount. Miss Ma Groweth of Centerville spent most of her adult life as a missionary in China. Magadan, Japan, Mexico, and South American missions were also supported. Jewish missions since the beginning has received donations. Miss Trierweiler received the last years for the Indian Church in Yankein. In the education field money was given frequently to Augusta Academy and Augustana College.

The synodical budget received support through the 1950's when depression and drought made it especially hard for the congregation to get enough money for their local needs. On charities the Bethesdas Children’s Sunset Home and Lutheran Welfare received the most consideration.

October 4, 1948, the West Prairie Aid celebrated its Diamond Jubilee marking the 75th anniversary of the organization. Over 200 visitors and members gathered at the church, dinner served to the people. Flowers and bouquets were received from North Prairie, Bethednas, St. Paul's, D. Devereux, and children and grandchildren of charter members. Historians, Mrs. Hector Gustad and Mrs. Clifford Hansen, read the history from West Prairie’s beginnings to the present time.

June 3, 1952, the Trondhjem Church was destroyed by fire due to lightning. Consequently the North and West Prairie Aid merged into the now one organization. Special functions were held in Zion Church.

During the year of 1954 various committees were busy with fund raising and purchasing equipment needed for the kitchen and dining areas of the new church in process of being built and made ready for the dedication on June 25, 1954.

In the fall of 1954, the West and North Prairie merged into one name. The name was decided as Trondhjem, Ladies Aid W.M.P. A constitution was adopted. Officers of the new aid were Mrs. P.M. Fjaes, president; Mrs. Carl Johnson, 1st vice president; Miss Beatrix Jensen, secretary; Mrs. Bertel Gustad, 2nd vice president; and Mrs. Henry Stenze, treasurer. In January, 1961, the name again changed to Trondhjem American Lutheran Church Women due to the merger of the Evangelical Lutheran, American Lutheran, and United Evangelical Lutheran churches. The new synod became the American Lutheran Church. Mesoasig Figur Bakke, Howard Olson, Chester Gorath, Chris Nyhus, and Hector Gustad were appointed to serve with Pastor Anderson to submit a new constitution. Roth, Naomi and Esther Circles were formed for Bible study, but were discontinued in 1970.

In 1978 THe Hope Circle (evening) was begun for women unable to attend the afternoon ALCW meetings. Our pioneer members depended on their proceeds from sales, auctions, articles made by hand. It is interesting to note the comparison between the early "sales" of conservative hand sewn garments and the "bananas" of beautiful quilts, fancy work of all kinds, knitted and crocheted items, doll furniture, and items too numerous to mention. The last bazaar was held on October 19, 1956.

Lutefisk suppers were also a means of raising money and were held during the early 1930's and 1940's. Separate suppers were first served by the Prairie Aids, but, due to the crowds, they later combined their efforts and served one supper. The last of these was served in October of 1950.

Carpats laid in the church were purchased by the ladies group along with many other improvements. Service trips were made to Waseca at Christmas, visits are made to nursing homes and Human Service Center.

Many times our spirits were lifted when we attended the "Retreats" held at Swan Lake, Viborg and Yankein. "Guest Day" was a special event with a sister ALCW as guest at a regular meeting. One program especially remembered was prepared by our true Norwegian, Mrs. Gunda Hanson, for Norwegian Independence Day.

The last years our society spends time on Bible study at the monthly meetings. Offerings were given to general offering, Vietnam Orphan through World Vision, and cheer offering for the cards and flowers for members of our older members. Children of the pioneers are gone and now our children carry on their work, still with the same ideals and enthusiasm.

The Trondhjem ALCW still raise money to give to the poor and to help present scriptures to those who have not heard of our loving Savior. Soup kitchen and country store are held annually with proceeds going to charity, usually ten missions received approximately $200 each.

As the Aid together with the younger group, the Circle Hope, who also take part in the same activities; mission work, visits, weddings, and all other occasions. It has always been our endeavor to help our church whenever in need, keeping it clean and in good order. One of our greatest joys was in planning the Centennial of our church in 1972 and our ALCW in 1973. This was a happy reunion of families and reminiscing of past events throughout the years. We have been a busy group in all these years, making quilts, baby layettes, health kits and soap, all packed and sent to Lutheran World Relief.

In thinking back we have experienced both lean years and years of plenty. We entered and passed through the "dry thirties", depression struck the ration, with depression came droughts, grasshoppers, floods, and wars. The highlights of our society's 113 years have been brought to your minds, to us, who are now living, are concerned with the future of our organization. We have experienced much these last five years. The hard economy, high interest rates, low grain prices with high prices on everyday needs. The young leaving the family homes for other employment. Many farmers forced to sell out causing empty farmsteads which now recall fond memories of the families who lived there. The situation from a farm has been felt on our today's Trondhjem ALCW. The attendance is dwindling down from former years. Many changes have been wrought since its beginnings and mistakes too. However one thing we should never forget deadened unluckily is the Word of God and the use of it at every meeting. It is on this unchanging Word that we can base our hopes for the future years.

by Mrs. Hector Gustad

TRONDHJEM BIBLE AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

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When a reorganization meeting was held at the Martinis school on December 16, 1865, among decisions made was one with provisions for Christian education for the children. The first Sunday School was held following the completion of the public school term in the spring, which possibly may have been a six month school year or less. The first teachers were Helga Hagen, Benjamin Hagen, Erick Evenson, and Dorothea Wold.

The children were required to memorize portions of the Bible, the Lutheran Catechism and various hymns. This was in the Norwegian language, and their school days were from morning to mid-afternoon.

older members, children of the
home and now their children's
work, still with the same ideals.

ham ALW still raise money to
and to help present scriptures
have not heard of our honored
the kitchen and country store are
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received approximately

Aid together with the younger
the city, who also take part in
missions, mission work, visits, of
other occasions. It has
advantage to help our church
keeping it clean and in
the church's greatest joy was in
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ACW in 1973. This was a
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Many farmers forced to sell out
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by Mrs. Hector Gustad

TRONDHJEM CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The cemetery association was organized on
October 1, 1968, after the required two
meetings. A proposed constitution was
adopted, and, at a later meeting, Herman
Hanson was named chairman; Bertel Gustad,
secretary; Clifford Lien, treasurer; and
Martin Johnson, vice chairman.

It was decided to make an appeal to
members and former members for funds
which were deposited and now provide for
perpetual care. Previously, the maintenance
was done by the members of the congregation
gathering with lawn mowers several
times during the growing season.

The land on which the church and the
cemetery stand was once owned by Hellassy
Hagen. Later, about 1889, a Mrs. Ellen
Bennett donated two more acres to the
cemetery. The long driveway leading to
the church grounds was given to the congre-
gation by the heirs of Dina and August Stene.

The cemetery association has been
accomplished now so the cemetery and
driveway are the property of the cemetery
association.

by Mrs. Hector Gustad

TRONDHJEM CHOIR

Early records on choir seem to date back
to 1904-1908 when Rev. Carlson was pastor
and his daughter, Alma later Mrs. C.J.
Oldberg) was director of the choir. In early
years the Norwegian hymn book, "Israelis

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TRONDHJEM

This history of Trondhjem Evangelical Lutheran Congregation covers a period of 114 years, a period of many changes.

In the late 1800’s a group of Scandinavian pioneers came to the Dakota Territory to build new homes. They gathered at different homes for devotions, and were convinced that if they were to make their homes here they needed a church. They organized a congregation meeting in homes and schoolhouses until a church could be built. Many gifted laymen from Norway traveled from place to place preaching God’s word. Rev. Peder Gestad was the first to organize and Rev. Ole Olsen was the first pastor. The church was built in 1883. The narthex was built in 1889, and a parsonage was built in 1890.

In 1900 the church was sold to Old World Lutheran Church, and the members moved to a new church. In 1905 the church was sold to the Church of the Brethren, and the members moved to a new church. In 1950 the church was sold to the United Methodist Church, and the members moved to a new church. In 1970 the church was sold to the United Church of Christ, and the members moved to a new church.

In 1980 the church was sold to the United Church of Christ, and the members moved to a new church. In 1990 the church was sold to the United Church of Christ, and the members moved to a new church. In 2000 the church was sold to the United Church of Christ, and the members moved to a new church.

In 2010 the church was sold to the United Church of Christ, and the members moved to a new church. In 2020 the church was sold to the United Church of Christ, and the members moved to a new church.

Gunder Graven, settling in the area, was one of the ministers ordained. His parish extended c counties.

Trondhjem church had its beginning in 1872. When twenty families had formed what became the church. In 1872, under the leadership of Rev. G.J. Graven, the church was organized. In 1872, the church was built. It was the first church in the area. In 1872, the church was dedicated. In 1872, the church was moved. In 1872, the church was sold. In 1872, the church was demolished. In 1872, the church was rebuilt. In 1872, the church was dedicated again. In 1872, the church was moved again. In 1872, the church was sold again. In 1872, the church was demolished again. In 1872, the church was rebuilt again. In 1872, the church was dedicated again again. In 1872, the church was moved again again. In 1872, the church was sold again again. In 1872, the church was demolished again again. In 1872, the church was rebuilt again again. In 1872, the church was dedicated again again again. In 1872, the church was moved again again again. In 1872, the church was sold again again again. In 1872, the church was demolished again again again. In 1872, the church was rebuilt again again again. In 1872, the church was dedicated again again again again. In 1872, the church was moved again again again again. In 1872, the church was sold again again again again. In 1872, the church was demolished again again again again. In 1872, the church was rebuilt again again again again. In 1872, the church was dedicated again again again again again. In 1872, the church was moved again again again again again. In 1872, the church was sold again again again again again. In 1872, the church was demolished again again again again again. In 1872, the church was rebuilt again again again again again. In 1872, the church was dedicated again again again again again again. In 1872, the church was moved again again again again again again. In 1872, the church was sold again again again again again again. In 1872, the church was demolished again again again again again again. In 1872, the church was rebuilt again again again again again again. In 1872, the church was dedicated again again again again again again again. In 1872, the church was moved again again again again again again again. In 1872, the church was sold again again again again again again again. In 1872, the church was demolished again again again again again again again. In 1872, the church was rebuilt again again again again again again again. In 1872, the church was dedicated again again again again again again again again.
Gunder Graven, settling in the Vermillion area, was one of the ministers called and ordained. His parish extended over seven counties.

Trondhjem church had its beginning January 1, 1872, when twenty families with the help and advice from Rev. G. L. Graven, pastor at St. Peter’s Church, Vermillion, South Dakota, became charter members and organized a congregation. Haldor Sather became first president and Ole Lien the first secretary.

The first ministerial acts were performed in May 1870 at the home of Ole Bjornie in his log house, where Rev. Nessene of Elk Point, South Dakota, performed the first baptisms. Those baptized included Iver Burke, Albert Gustad, and Emily Olson Aamodsen. Later, Jens Hossing was the first confirmant of Rev. Nessene, and Anna Olson Nissen the first confirmant of Rev. G. L. Graven.

On August 6, 1876, the following were elected to write a constitution: Rev. Graven, Olaus Skanse, Benjamin Hansen, Helga Hagen, and Haldor Sather. The constitution was adopted November 14, 1876. No records were kept from 1876-1885; but due to the growth of plans were made to build a church. A difference of opinion as to the location caused the congregation to divide in 1882, and two churches were built.

December 16, 1882, twenty-two members met at the Lutheran school to organize. They adopted the name “Trondhjem Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of the Hague Synod.” Yankton County, South Dakota. The purpose of organizing the congregation to build the Lutheran faith and things in accordance with the Word of God.

February 27, 1885, it was decided to incorporate and to take over the church yard and cemetery on Halvor Aune’s land located three miles north of Vermillion, South Dakota. Hellaug Hansen was elected president and Ole Solberg, secretary, with building committee members Ole Solum, Ole Aune, and Benjamin Haugen. It was also decided to provide three months of summer Bible school for the children, with Hellaug Hansen as instructor.

On June 27, 1888, Rev. P.H. Carlson organized the South Dakota Inner Mission Society at the present Hague Church of Vermillion, South Dakota. In the fall of 1892, a dedication and quarterly meeting was held. An offering was given to Inner Mission and Mission Home in China.

September 9, 1895, Rev. J.B. Strand was called and accepted a piece of land was purchased by Trondhjem, Zion and Meldal congregations, and a parsonage was built on the Andrew Sægstad farm, one-half mile north of Trondhjem Evangelical Church. Student Olberg was called to assist the pastor. The church was built and put to use in 1895 with Rev. Graven the first pastor.

June 24, 1902, a storm destroyed both Trondhjem and Meldal and neighboring Sægstad Church. The church and parsonage was quickly raised, and the church was replaced for $5,200.00, dedicated, and put to use in 1903.

When reconstruction, Meldal joined Iowa, and the Völum Church united with Trondhjem and Zion. The old parsonage was sold to A.O. Sægstad and another purchased in Völum for $4,500.00.

August 11, 1919, it was decided to build a basement under the church, complete with kitchen facilities and electric lights and put to use in 1921.

Trondhjem and Zion celebrated their Golden Jubilee in May 1925. Rev. L.O. Sundt organized the Young People’s Luther League.

March 24, 1926, it was decided to give the parish a set salary of $2,250.00 and to dispense with offerings.

In 1934, the congregation voted to have equal Norwegian and English services. In November 1941 property in Völum was re- leased from the estate of Ole Lien, which was later sold, and the interest used for religious instruction.

In 1942, Mrs. August Siene gave extra ground for the roadway to the church. The same year, women’s suffrage became effective in the congregation, and two-thirds English services and one-third Norwegian were allowed.

The Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1947, with an offering of over $1,000 was raised at the altar.

L.C. Storm received as treasurer of the Trondhjem church in 1947 after serving for 54 years.

A Hammond electric organ was purchased in 1949 with funds raised by the congrega- tion. That same year, H.C. Hanson was honored for forty-five years of Sunday School teaching.

On June 11, 1950, Virgil O. Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Johnson, was ordain- ed into the ministry with Rev. L.A. Piersen officiating.

The Norwegian Constitution was transla- ted to the English language in 1951, and the name of the congregation was changed to Trondhjem Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, and a piece of church yard was purchased.

On June 8, 1952, the Trondhjem church was destroyed by fire during a electrical storm. Following the fire, meetings were held in Zion church. Rebuilding plans were made, and groundbreaking ceremony took place on April 12, 1953, cornerstone laying in Septem- ber, and dedication June 27, 1954. I. Murray Johnson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin John- son, was ordained by President L.A. Piersen. Prt. Olin Lynde Johnson lost his life in Korea, and a memorial service was held in October of 1953.

Trondhjem members held a fellowship dinner for Zion in appreciation of the use of their church during the rebuilding of Trondhjem.

The clerical gown was first used at a church service in 1957.

Part of the Bible Camp expenses is support- ed by the church. New pastoral books were owned and used for the church. Two books, and Descons, were requested to assist with communion.

A debt-free retirement service was held June 26, 1964, as the balance of the building loan was retired.

The congregation supported Pastor Fad- ness in the fight against gambling in the state, and the Crop program and upcoming LIFE program.

The church and constitution were adopt- ed in 1967. The Cemetery Association of Trondhjem Church was formed in 1968. Rev. and Mrs. Ray Holter, a missionaries from Brazil were sponsored by the congrega- tion. In 1971 Trondhjem joined the proposed corporation of Bethesda Home for the aged.

Herman Hanson, a charter member, was elected to serve on the first Board of Direct- ors in 1972. Hans O. Hanson and Hector Gustad attended this first meeting as deleg- ates.

Trondhjem and Zion churches observed their centennial celebration on June 10th and 11th, 1972, the highlight of the year. The theme chosen was “Looking Back to Going Forward” and theme verse chosen was Hebrews 13:18 “Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to day, and forever.” All former living pastors and their families were present. The event began with a vesper service at Trondhjem on Saturday evening. Sunday morning service in Zion, and afternoon activities in the Völum auditorium. The elast confirmands attend- ing were: Hannah Bakke Aalbu, Everett, Washington, John McFarlan, Detroit, Michi- gan; Ragnar Hinseth Jottstadte, resident at Bethesda Home, Bereford, South Dakota; and James Corbin, Mexico, South Dakota; all four having their 91st birthdays in 1972. Evening services at Trondhjem brought messages from sons of Trondhjem, Rev. Virgil Johnson and Rev. I. Murray Johnson. Centennial offerings were divided between “Radio Voice of the Gospel in Ethiopia” and the “Literature Fund in Cameroun, Africa”.

October 20 and 21, 1973, Trondhjem Annual Fall Meeting. Church members obser- ved their 100th anniversary. A banquet was held in conjunction with Mrs. Hilmar Hansen’s birthday. The following speakers were used and returned at the Christmas Eve services with receipts going to “crop” and to “New Life of Girls” a drug rehabilitation ministry in Yankton.

Trondhjem again received special gifts, pendants, and Lenten folders for the United Mission Appeal, a brand new ministry to the Fulani in Africa, the nomadic “cattle people.” It was again decided by vote to continue the joint worship service as in the past. Also in 1975, new doors and lights were installed in the dining room and kitchen.

Trondhjem continued support of a mis- sionary, Rev. and Mrs. Carroll Elliott. Also support was given to Lutheran Outdoors for the youth.

In 1978, many repairs were made to the church: a complete new roof, storm windows and replastering. A gift of five fans were given by a family and were installed. Other gifts included new entrance doors and a chalice and flag. Rev. Virgil Johnson was installed in 1978.

The new missionary supported by the congregation was Rev. Robert Simonson who is stationed in the Third World.

At a Sunday service on October 24, 1982, Trondhjem and Zion were treated to a greeting and sermon from a young pastor, Sverre Gustad, Oslohalla, Norway, a descen- dant of our forefathers who came here in the early years helped organize this congregation. It was a great experience for him to walk into the cemetery and find the names of his kin who had done so much towards this congregation and now at their final resting place. Pastor Gustad has congregations in the northern part of Norway where so many left
TRONDHJEM ORGANISTS AND THEIR ORGANS T123

The older church records back to 1884-1886 indicated that the daughter of Rev. C.J. Oldberg was the first lady in music, choir director, and church organist. It is reasonable to believe that the one manual, pump organ was the only instrument used until the 1930's when a piano was purchased.

The organ, one manual, was equipped with two foot pedals to furnish the power to eject music. The last one used, before the first Hammond organ, was a very good instrument, but unusually heavy to pump so the organist got a real work out with her feet, leaving her breathless and often relieved when the last verse was sung in the hymn. In the spring of 1949 the church bought the first Hammond electric organ which was destroyed in the 1962 fire. A new Hammond was given by memorial gifts when the new church was completed and dedicated in 1964. The present piano in the church sanctuary was given at this time by a Sioux Falls music store. Since then several pianos in the basement have been given as memorials and personal gifts.

In the depression the organist's salary was whatever one or two offerings yielded. After Mrs. Bertel Gustad began to play and at her suggestion, these offerings were taken but used for missions or charities. Her contention was first interest in these causes and second, her husband was responsible for her welfare. These offerings are still being taken.

At the cornerstone laying on September 13, 1953, Mrs. Gustad was presented a music cabinet by the congregation as appreciation for services rendered. On April 20, 1956, she was again honored at a pot luck dinner and given a lovely tablecloth where all members had written their names and also a lovely floral center piece. Mrs. Gustad is now in her 40th year of service. Since moving to Yankton and seventeen miles from the church, her daughter-in-law has assumed the singing responsibility.

Organists since 1884 are: Alma Carlson Oldberg, Agnes Carlson Stangeland, Ida Olson Palstad Wiebersick, Ida Skanne Gilbertson, Gita Gilbertson Bak, Viggo Lassen (only male organist), Sophie Johnson Lee, Alice Low Heve, Gina Johnson Lee, Mrs. Oscar Johnson, Mrs. Bertel Gustad, Mrs. Ordell Gustad.

by Mrs. Hector Gustad

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST (CONGREGATIONAL) T134

Joseph Ward, an Andover Theological Seminary graduate, and his bride Sarah, came to Yankton November 6, 1865, to start the first Congregational church in the Dakota Territory. Lots for the church were a Christmas gift from J.R.S. Todd at a Sabbath School festival on Christmas Eve. The site selected the next morning was the corner of Walnut and Fifth Street, "out on the prairie", where the church stands today. The first church was dedicated July 17, 1870, with a sermon by J.E. Roy, D.D., Field Superintend- ent of the Home Missionary Society. Joseph Ward was the leader in establishing Yankton College in 1881.

The group of people who organized to conduct the affairs of the church, one for fund raising (later treasurer) and one for spiritual growth (later deacon). Sunday School and women's groups were organized. Services were held Sunday mornings and evenings with prayer meetings on Thursday evening and business meetings as needed. Money was solicited, earned by the women and borrowed as a mission church. The first church building was dedicated October 20, 1878. Joseph Ward left the church to become the first president of Yankton College in 1883.

Mrs. Cephas F. Clapp was called to be the second pastor. A committee was appointed to consider ways of raising funds for a new church but plans were rejected. On February 26, 1887, Mr. Clapp preached his last sermon. The Reverend Daniel Bradley was exten-ded a call for $300.00 a year and was installed June 15, 1887. He suggested buying an organ. A bank loan was made to add to the $1,800.00 the committee had raised. The parsonage was built west of the church for about $4,000.00. Mr. Bradley in addition to his other duties worked full time for the Yankton College after Joseph Ward's death in 1889.

The Reverend E.A. Thompson became the pastor in April, 1892, with a salary of $1,700.00 and free use of the parsonage. He remained for six years and was replaced by Rev. Edward Williams in 1894. He resigned because of ill health in 1897.

In April 1898 the Reverend Bernard Mattson of Medina, Ohio, was called at a salary of $1,200.00 and the use of the parsonage. By

by Mrs. Hector Gustad

United Church of Christ Congregation

January 1902 BES35.36 had been the new church building fund. Secured from the Church Building and the old church was torn services held in Ward Hall, "S. Occupation" were held March 19, Mattson left in 1906.

Mr. F.V. Stevens of Whitewater sin, was installed in January 1907, was made in December 1909, of the Old debt and having "Free S. renta were in early days a chief rev Stevens left in 1921, and the Reves Lindemann of Ames, Iowa, came for plus parsonage and a month of Moore of the stained glass wind installed and dedicated. Mr. Lindert to be a National Superintende Home Missionary Society, and Dr. Palmer of Walla Walls, Washington 1940. He was noted for his mastery, sermons. He retired and returned tington in 1902.

The Reverend Charles Brewer, native, came in April 1953. The Ed wing was built, Mrs. Brewer direc lovely Christmas pageants. They Hawaii in 1960.

The parsonage was remodeled it offices and a new parsonage box block west of the church before Shirley of Minnesota came. They held Christmas open house etc. They returned to Minnesota in 12 Ows Mitchell came. They bought songhouse. He left in 1977 to pre Yankton College.

Dwight Sneed, born in South Da Yankton College graduate, came The Rathgebler Memorial Foundation given for the upkeep of the church 1 student interest have come from pastors and trainees and live in an a above the church offices. The organ rebuilt and chimes repaired, Brinkmeyer has been Minister of a twenty years, Yankton College, Dec December 1954. The pastor and a group of church office raise $100,000.00 in 1958 and sac paying for employees, pay insurance给大家更多的帮助。
in their names and also a lovely & prize. Mrs. Gustad is now in her 108th year and as an organist. Since moving to and seventeen miles from the 3rd daughter-in-law has assumed duties.

in 1884 are: Alma Carlson nes Carlson Stangeland, Ida Olson lerson, Ida Anna Gustad, certon Bak, Viggo Lassen (only 64 years old), Sophie Johansen, Lee Olsen a, Gisela Johnson Lee, Mrs. Oscar Andre Barta, Mrs. Ordell

by Mrs. Hector Gustad

TED CHURCH OF CHRIST
(REGATIONAL)

T124

Ward, an Andover Theological graduate, and his bride Sarah, a woman of culture. In 1868, the Ward family moved to Farmington, and by 1870 the Ward family had moved to Dakota

T24

United Church of Christ Congregational 1st and Walnut Streets.

The Yanke Church of Christ operates in the Congregational tradition but nationwide is a combination of the merging of Christian, Congregational, Evangelical, and Reformed Churches.

by Alice E. Scott, Historian

UTICA LADIES’ AID

T125

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by Alice E. Scott, Historian

VANGEN LUTHERAN CEMETERY, MISSION HILL, SOUTH DAKOTA

T126

The land for Vangen Lutheran Cemetery was donated by the Lutheran League of Vangen Family. It was a parcel of about two acres. This was the final piece of land for church and cemetery.

The cemetery register shows burials back in the 1860s. It appears that many of the early markers were of wood or white marble. All of the wooden markers have been removed or decayed. Many of the white marble stones have been replaced by granite.

In 1952 Pastor Smedly appointed a committee of five members at the annual meeting of Vangen congregation. Anton Johnson, Oscar Olsen, A. B. Anderson, S.R. Bruget, and J.P. Weygand were those named. Anton Johnson was named chairman, and J.P. Wolby was appointed secretary. According to the minutes of the cemetery association, these men served for many years.

These were men of vision. One of their first major decisions was to recommend to the congregation the purchase of an acre of land to the west of the original site. This recommendation was accepted by the congregation, and the purchase was made from J. L. Jenson for $250 for an acre.

Then the board proceeded to seed the new area to grass and to pave the entire cemetery with gravel. For this work they hired William Bruce of Vangen. From this time on each grave has a stone, and for a number which is recorded at the Register of Deeds in Vangen. The horse-drawn plows were replaced by modern tractor, and the area is now maintained by a combination of government funds and private donations.

In 1953 the board began talking about an archway and gate at the south east entrance. In the spring of 1954, eleven men subscribed
The Vangen Lutheran Cemetery in Mission Hill.

The first Vangen Church built one half mile east of Mission Hill. It is believed to be the oldest Lutheran church building in the two Dakotas.

After Abraham Jacekson left, they continued to hold prayer meetings in the homes. They asked that a pastor would visit them at least twice a year.

Rev. Krohn came from Chicago, and on October 8, 1864, he served in the home of Amsler Ulven near Vermillion. After this service the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Dakota Territory was organized. There were 67 voting members. At this time he baptized 45 people; of these, 23 were children. The first trustees elected were Helge Mathiason, Askel Jacsohn, Ole Sampson, Peter Nilson, and Lars Fagnestol. Hans Gunderson was elected deacon.

The organization took in all Norwegian Lutherans in Union, Clay, and Yankton counties.

The next year when Rev. Krohn came, he served as far as the James River and held services in the Torgerson home.

In 1866 the congregation was visited by the Rev. O. Naess of Dodgeville, Wisconsin.

By this time the people were anxious to have a resident pastor. They extended a call to Rev. Emil Christenson, and he accepted and came in 1867. He preached his first sermon at Bergen and lived there the first year. Because of the large territory being served, they decided to divide into three parts — Brule Creek toward the east, Bergen in the center, and Vangen to the west.

Besides serving Bergen and Vangen congregations, Pastor Christenson also visited scattered congregations in Lincoln, Minnehaha, Brookings, and Moody counties. With Pastor Twatt and Gulbrandsen as assistants, Pastor Christenson served this large territory until 1876.

During this time the first Vangen Church was built one half mile east of the town of Mission Hill on ground donated by Guro Leversen. Much of the material was brought from Sioux City, Iowa, by ox teams from Sioux City. It is believed to be the oldest Lutheran building in the two Dakotas and is kept in good repair and used on every Memorial Day. The men still sit side by side and the women on the left.


Pastor Christenson resigned in 1889. He was pastor to the Vangen parishioners. In 1907, Pastor P. H. Dahl was the pastor of the two congregations.

In 1911, Rev. Groehn was called as assistant pastor, and Meckling and Bergen were still a part of the Vangen parish.

In 1916 it was decided to build a new church in Mission Hill. The corner was laid in September of 1917. The front part was constructed in 1917. The main part was completed in 1920. The new church was dedicated in July 1921. The people were anxious to have a resident pastor. They extended a call to Rev. Emil Christenson, and he accepted and came in 1867. He preached his first sermon at Bergen and lived there the first year. Because of the large territory being served, they decided to divide into three parts — Brule Creek toward the east, Bergen in the center, and Vangen to the west.

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The congregation voted to move the church to the west of the church. The building committee was...
levenson. Much of the material was hauled by ox team from Sioux City, Iowa. It is believed to be the oldest Lutheran church building in the two Dakotas still standing. It is kept in good repair and used for services every Memorial Day. The men still sit on the right sides and the women on the left way they did when the church was first built in 1849.

Pastor Christensen resigned in 1876, and Pastor H.B. Hustvedt was called. He served until 1881. Pastor P.H. Dahl was then called. Geyville was still a part of the congregation. Because Vangen was widening, the Gavills city district built their own church. They were still a part of the Vangen parish. The parsonage was in Gavills. Pastor O.V. Smoey was called as assistant pastor in 1913. Meckling and Bergen were still a part of the parish.

In 1906 it was decided to build a larger church in Mission Hill. The corner stone was laid in September of 1917. The first sermon was preached in the new brick church on Easter Sunday, 1918. It was Pastor Dahl's first and last service in the new church. He passed away in July of 1918. He was the only pastor to serve this parish until his death. Most of his family are buried in the cemetery at the old church.

When the congregation moved into the new church, the language used for worship was changed from Norwegian to English. After Pastors Dahl's death, Pastor D.V. Smoey became the pastor of the parish of Vangen, Meckling, and Bergen. In 1920 Meckling and Bergen became a parish, and Gavills and Vangen became a parish. The confirmation class in the old church was in Norwegian in 1917. The first confirmation in the new church was in 1919, and it was in English.

The parsonage in Mission Hill was built in 1923. The Smoey's had two daughters, Audya and Audrey, born in Gavills, Pastor Smoey served the church until 1945. After the Smoey's left, Pastor R.F. Wilson accepted a call and he, his wife and two children, Billy and Martha, came later in 1945. It was during Pastor Wilson's ministry that the congregation started holding the Memorial Day services in the old church. During Pastor Wilson's ministry, Laura Simonson was recognized for her 60 years of unstinting service to the congregation as organist and pianist. Pastor Wilson's son, John, succeeded his father as organist in 1962 and continues to serve very capably at the present time, 1965. Pastor Wilson resigned in early 1951. Supply pastors filled in until a new pastor was installed.

Rev. Stanley Kvinge was called in January of 1952, and he and his wife, Goldie, came in June. Their daughter was the first baby born at the Mission Hill parsonage. The Kvinges served the Vangen Parish until October 28, 1956.

Pastor William L. Vaswig was called, and he and his wife, Marline, and two children, Philip and Joanna, came in November of 1956.

In 1958 the congregation decided to sponsor a missionary. Mr. Otto Tollefsen and his wife, Barbora and son, Scott, were in Mission Hill for a week getting acquainted before they went to Brazil. The congregation voted to build an educational unit on the west side of the church. The building committee was Melvin Hanson, (chairman), Carl Gustad, Pershing Syljasson, Frank Cutta, Chris Gath, Mrs. Carolinie Anderson, and Mrs. Paul Hanson with Pastor Vaswig as advisor.

The cornerstone was laid on August 14, 1960. Pastor Vaswig resigned in June but remained until the end of August hoping the building would be completed by then. He returned for the dedication on January 8, 1961.

Pastor Bruce Kjellberg, who had accepted a call, arrived in September with his wife Gloria and two children, Jeffery and Linda, to serve the parish. In 1962 it was proposed that Gavills and Vangen separate. Gavills had been asked to join the Meckling Bergen Parish. July 18, 1962, Vangen became a one point parish. Pastor Bruce Kjellberg remained as Vangen's pastor. In October 1964, Vangen celebrated its one hundredth year as a congregation. At that time the Gavills- 

Vangen and Meckling gatherings participated in observing the occasion. A centennial book was prepared which covered the history of the parish from 1864 to 1964. Much information for the Centennial Book was gleaned from the records of Mrs. Sig (Augusta) Simonson who was the church historian from 1924-1962 when she was succeeded by Mrs. Wilter (Dorothy) Holman. The book was dedicated to the many young people of the four congregations. The past has been molded indelibly and cannot be changed. We indeed thank God for our connection to His church and for the heritage that has been given us. We also thank God, especially for our youth who will be given the leadership of the future.

The first Vangen in the spring of 1965, and Pastor Jeff Rohr and his wife, Wanda, and son, John, moved to a new home in Kieth, came that summer and served until resigning in early 1968.

Pastor Alben Johnson was then called, and he and his wife, Marlene, and five children came that summer and served the congregation until early 1971.

A call was extended to Pastor Jacob Knuston of Loogootee, Indiana. He accepted the call, and he and his wife, Jean, and children, Cathy and David, arrived in Mission Hill in June of 1974. He was installed on June 20th. We are happy to have them still serving the congregation in 1980.

Vangen Lutheran Church has an active Sunday School with many dedicated teachers.

There is always an active Luther League. They conduct the Easter Sunrise Service and also serve Easter breakfast. They also sponsor an ice cream social and assist in the food service at the Human Services Center. Many groups with their sponsors have attended the National Lutheran League conventions. A number of young people also attend Bible camp each summer.

Following Pastor Tollefsen's missionary tour in Brazil from 1958-1977, the congregation provided partial sponsorship for Miss Marlene Johnson in Tanzania 1978-1981 and for Miss Marline Schroeder in Papua, New Guinea from 1982 until the last time they heard from her in 1986.

Vangen Lutheran Church Women's Mission Hill, South Dakota

The Ladies Aid was organized on October 22, 1884. The name was Ringkaster's Kvindes Forning. This name was used until we joined the W.M.F. in 1928. In our history files, we have the original constitution hand written by Rev. P.H. Dahl and a complete history of church women's activities throughout the year. These names were on the constitution: Mrs. Torger Nelson, president; Mrs. Andrew Simonson, treasurer; Mrs. Jorgen Bruget, secretary; Mrs. P.J. Freng, Mrs. Chris Freng, Mrs. Nic Hanson, Mrs. Lars Hanson, Mrs. Ern Larson, Mrs. Guro Leverson, and Miss Svendsen Bruget. This meeting was held in the Torger Nelson home. The women met in their homes once a month until 1919 when the new church was ready to be used.

The altar painting, organ, and bell in the old church were provided by the Ladies Aid. Also the altar, pulpits, baptismal font, and many other furnishings and improvements in the new church, and the parsonage have been provided by the Ladies Aid.

The Ladies Aid now the American Lutheran Church Women (A.L.C.W.) is very active. Meetings are held once a month. Members visit slots in their homes and in nursing homes, entertain groups from the Human Service Center with musical programs, and serve them lunch. The ladies are always sewing quilts to send to Lutheran World Relief. Approximately 1400 quilts have been made by Vangen women through 1984. Bible study is the central part of the organization. In May 1984 they celebrated the 100th anniversary of the organization of Vangen Church Women.

by Mrs. Wilter Holman, Vangen Church Women Historian

VOLIN LUTHERAN CHURCH

T128

In November, 1902, eleven Volin ladies met at the home of Mrs. Iver Bagstad to form the "Skanadivanske Kvindeforening" or Ladies Aid. Their purpose was to work towards establishing a Lutheran church in Volin.

Officers were: Jennie Lien, president; Mrs. Ole Johnson, vice president; Mrs. Richard L. Hanson, secretary; and Annie Bagstad, treasurer. They held meetings twice a month, had a monthly meeting to raise money, did hand work, and had lunch. Dues were ten cents. They had food sales, ice cream, and basket sales, served lunches, had lutefisk and chicken suppers, and an annual dinner. During that time their handshake was auctioned off after a big dinner.

On April 20, 1904, Rev. C.K. Solberg, pastor at Trinity Church in Yankton, came to Volin and assisted in forming the Volin Lutheran Church. Officers named were: Ole Pederson, president; Jennie Knutson, vice presi- dency; and Charley Lien, treasurer. Rev. Solberg served as minister for a year at a salary of $100.00. Services were held in the Methodist Church on Sunday afternoons in the fall of 1903.

A lot was purchased in 1905, the church was built in 1908 and dedicated by the District President, C.J. Eastlund, in Novem- ber.

Ministers serving 1904 through 1909 were C.K. Solberg, Olo Anderson, G.M. Bruce,
According to eldest recollections of John Schaeffer, early pioneer, it began in the year of 1871 or 1872 when a missionary from Minnesota made a journey to the Walshtown area. He held a few meetings among the group of settlers, then organized several families together, and called it the Walshtown congregation. Early families included the Fred Brandt, Chris Faulk, Henry Haist, Sr., Henry Schaeffer, Sr., Henry Hagerman, Wm. Brockmeuller Sr., and later Jacob Koedel, Wm. Brockmeuller Jr., Charles Brockmeuller, Henry Schaeffer Jr., and John Hoffmeister. In these early years the ministers visited from Minnesota and stayed in the community for a period of about two weeks. They visited in the homes and gave German catechistic instruction to young and old and preached to them every night and on Sunday.

From 1873 to 1876 J.B. Simon from Yankton came out to Walshtown and held services every two weeks on Sunday afternoon. These services were held in various homes wherever accommodations were available. In the summertime services were held in one of the neighboring groves. Revival meetings were held in various homes. The July meetings were held in a large grove. The Henry Schaeffer Sr. farm had probably the earliest established grove for meetings. These meetings were called “Bush” meetings. An altar and lector were constructed of rough boards, partially enclosed with a wood canopy. Tables had to be constructed for the meals served, the meetings usually lasted for two weeks. These meetings were presided over by a pastor from Yankton. People from the entire county with their pastors attended. Travel was by means of horse and buggy or horse and farm kerosene. Meals were mostly for light. Food and lodging were provided by members of Walshtown congregation. Each family would take to their home all they could house. The host family usually had the necessary arrangements and preparation for the event, this family usually killed a fattened veal. On one occasion the family baked 20 pies, 30 cakes, several jars full of cookies, besides the many loaves of bread.

In February 1902 members of the congregation met for their annual business meeting under the supervision of Pastor Henry Loveness. A free acre of land was given to the congregation by Henry Hagerman. This was for a cemetery with the hope of a future church.

In 1906 members decided to erect a church. Donations were solicited in the neighborhood. Money from Yankton merchants were among the donors. Work was entirely volunteer work by members. The first altar was built and donated by John Schaeffer. The first organ was purchased in 1917 for $15.00. The church was dedicated in 1908 by Rev. A.H. Sodder. Services were conducted in the German language. In 1910 one class in the English language was started. John Hoffmeister volunteered to teach this class. This created the new generation of the church. In 1914, three classes, Missions, were placed with some children speaking the English language and some speaking German. All preaching services were conducted in German language until 1914.

By 1920 and 1921 most of the Evangelical Lutheran Church members were gone or had moved away, and many of the Lutheran faith had moved into the area. In 1957 and again in 1929 a last effort was made to re-establish the Evangelical Lutheran church, but this time the community had changed entirely so it failed.

In 1931 Rev. G.V. Stensby of Mission Hill came to Walshtown and conducted services every two weeks in the afternoon or evening. A ladies group called the Walshtown Willing Workers was organized in 1933. The ladies helped by teaching Sunday School and sponsoring two weeks of Bible school each summer. They had chicken suppers each fall to help pay the cost of keeping the church in good condition and to have two weeks of school each summer.

The church building was sold and dismantled in 1963. The cemetery is still cared for with funds received from memorial gifts. These pioneers of the prairies endured many hardships to develop a new land and improve their way of life.

by Mrs. Elmer Haffner

YANKTON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Rev. E.E. Zimmermann erected a tent in the city of Yankton on June 21, 1937, and held a series of meetings lasting until July 25. This was the beginning of what is now First Assembly of God. Rev. Mildred Horton was the first pastor of the Yankton Assembly beginning in 1938. At that time the South Dakota District Council of the Assemblies of God purchased a 3040 ft. building from H.C. Mock. This was located on Lot 2, Block 4, of (old) Yankton.

Rev. Ada Bick came to pastor the church in 1942. In 1946 the church purchased property on Lot 1, Block 59, in the city of Yankton. The church building was located near this location. Rev. I.M. Glavins came to pastor the church in 1946.

In September of 1950 the Assembly purchased a building, former Methodist Church, located five miles south of Delmont and moved it to Lot 18, Block 52 of Yankton.

Rev. Wilbur Tishey was the pastor in 1953. Rev. Donald Harmon came to pastor the church which was moved to 6th and Pictou. First Assembly of God was officially recognized by the General Council of the Assemblies of God in 1969. Rev. Duane Jones pastored from 1969 until 1981 when Rev. Claude Conklin was elected pastor.

In 1987 the property owned by the Assembly of God was purchased by the city and meetings were held in the GAR Hall on Douglas Avenue. Rev. Charles Graves was the pastor.

In the Assembly bought Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Yankton, located on Lot 4, 5, Block 70, Central Yankton.

In 1971 Rev. Jerry Dene came to pastor the church. In 1976 Rev. Vernon Peterson was elected pastor and served until 1980. Rev. Thomas J. Pless was pastor from 1980 until 1983 when the present Rev. A.W. Weidner was elected pastor.

by Pastor A.W. Weidner

YANKTON TRIN. LUTHERAN CH.

The history of Trinity Lutheran Church in Yankton goes back to 1875 when mission from Europe. In 1840 the first District Lutheran Church was established. In 1886 the Evangelical Lutheran Church was formed. Later the ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church was organized as a District. A church was built at Sixth and dedicated in 1902. A bell was purchased by the Ladies Auxiliary. In the 1940's and 1950's the church fell into decay and needed a new building. On June 13, 1945, the following were appointed: Committee of Rotation, Bishop Thompson and I. Chapa; Committee of Rotation, P.V. Haar, Gust Sorensen, Fred Tschetter, H.D. Ingvard Wad, Russell Balson, S. Nyberg. On the Finance Committee Knudsen, S.A. Boll, Carl Christiansen on the Publicity Committee was I.

There were many changes in the church over the years. During the pastorate a building site was purchased in the Edmonds' Estate. This was later the site of the historic home of Dr. George, second Governor, the Newton Edmond's. The cost of the site was purchased in the Edmonds' Estate. This was later the site of the historic home of Dr. Newton Edmond's. The cost of the site was purchased in 1948. The Rotary Club was asked to submit plans for a church. Later Pastor Wicks resign on September 1, 1949, Pastor A.L. was installed as pastor. The church was built on the site purchased in 1948. On September 1, 1949, Pastor A.L. was installed as pastor. The church was built on the site purchased in 1948.

On September 1, 1949, Pastor A.L. was installed as pastor. The church was built on the site purchased in 1948.

ZION LUTHERAN CH.

Between the years of 1880 and 1890 many immigrants came from around the World to America. In Yankton County there was a lot of immigration. The area consisted of the Northern Iowa territory and nearly all of the Marion territory. This town became known as the Zion area.

These pioneers were Christian and desired to worship the Lord and to have services when services were conducted in their language. The Zion Lutheran Church was organized in 1880 by Rev. John F. Rietveld. The church was built on the site purchased in 1880.

The Zion Lutheran Church was organized in 1880 by Rev. John F. Rietveld. The church was built on the site purchased in 1880.
ade to re-establish the Evangelical Church. At this time the community was entirely so it failed.

Rev. O. W. Smith of Mission Hill took the place of the first church in 1877, and built a wooden church on the same site. In 1884 he built a brick church, which served the community until 1933. The building was later sold and dismantled.

The cemetery is still used for burials.

by Mrs. Elmer Haffner

TON ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Zimmerman erected a tent in the town on June 21, 1887, and held services for the weeks following. The town was organized in 1893. In 1894 the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized.

by Rev. O. W. Smith

YANKTON TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

The history of Trinity Lutheran Church goes back to 1875 when missionaries came from Europe. In 1889 the Danish church was organized. In 1909 the Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church was organized.

by Rev. O. W. Smith

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Between the years of 1860 and 1868 many immigrants came from around Tjønndalen, Norway, to America. In Yankton County they settled near the border of Minnehaha and Clay counties. This area consisted of the north one-third of Volin Township and nearly all of Mariodahl Township. This became known as the Mariodahl area.

These pioneers were Christian people who desired a church and a school and gathered in the homes for services. In 1870 the first religious service was conducted by the Rev. Nesse from near Elk Point. The services were held in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ole Bjore. By 1880 all the land in this area was taken.

The homesteaders, predominantly Norwegian, lived in caves and dugouts.

Later they worshipped in the Mariodahl school house, about one mile west of the present Zion Church. During the next few years the church grew and had services in the parsonage of the Mariodahl Church.

The certification of incorporation bears the date December 14, 1882. This congregation became Zion Congregational.

In 1888 they built a small school house 14 feet by 18 feet on the church ground and was used for a place of worship. April 11, 1891, it was decided to build a church 28 feet by 50 feet with a steeple to cost $1,500.00 and to call the congregation Zion.

In the early days the parish had parochial school for two or three months and called it Norwegian School. For the religious instruction they used the catechism and for faith and also taught reading and spelling.

An electric stumb on July 6, 1913, struck the Zion Church and burned to the ground. A new church was started in the fall of 1915 and dedicated in October 1916. The cost of the building was built by Rev. Andrew Hall of Irene, South Dakota was $15,000.00. The name of Zion Congregation was changed to Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church on February 27, 1918.

It was decided to have every third Sunday service in English language; otherwise it all had been Norwegian services. This was changed in 1914. Then in 1923 it was decided to have two thirds of the services in English and one third in Norwegian. In 1942 all Norwegian services were abolished. They also translated their Norwegian constitution to the English language in 1940.

In June 1946 at St. Paul, Minnesota, the church was changed to the Evangelical Lutheran Church from the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Extending over a period of years beginning in 1949 some improvements were made. The wooden floor in the basement was removed and replaced with tile. The serving window between the kitchen and dining room was changed. New iron railings were put in place of the concrete railings. The pew and floor were sanded and refinished.

In the fall of 1916 a pipe organ was installed, and in 1957 it was decided to rebuild the pipe organ. The cost of the organ in 1910 was $1,500.00. The cost of rebuilding the organ was $4,500.00 and rebuilt by the Grainty Organ Company of Elgin, Illinois. The rebuilt organ was dedicated on November 30, 1950.

In 1960 the United Evangelical Lutheran Church, Evangelical Lutheran, and the American Lutheran Church merged to be...
come the American Lutheran Church.

On June 10, 11, 1972, the Zion Congregation observed their 100th Anniversary with many former and present members attending with several former pastors taking part.

In recent years the basement dining room is now carpeted, and the walls are paneled with rest rooms added. January 1972 it was decided to make the altar a “free standing altar” and was also redecorated.


Pastor P.M. Fjaere was pastor from December 1, 1929, to May 14, 1936. After 27 years of service he accepted a call to be assistant pastor at Canton, South Dakota.

by Marie Olsen

CHIEFS OF THE YANKTON SIOUX with their Indian Agents. The Yankton occupied the north shore until 1858, shortly before the Minnesota Sioux uprising.
SCHOOLS
AND
HEALTH CARE

Off To School
We haven't any "little girl"
With eyes aflush with glee,
And hair in many a dancing curl,
Her happy heart care free,
She started off to school today
And mamma's heart is sore;
"Our baby's gone," I heard her say;
"Our little girl no more."

We lost our little girl today,
With eager, hurrying feet
She sped with laughter light and gay
Along the busy street
And watching her a mother's eyes
Grew moist with unshed tears
As backward now her mem'ry flies
Through quickly vanished years.

We lost our little girl today,
With lightly tripping feet
She hurries on her schoolyard way
Far down the city street,
But though the years sped swiftly by
Into eternity
She'll be, however fast they fly,
"My little girl" to me.
Beadle School The First Sixty Years

Occupation of the new $40,000 Beadle Grade School on north Mulberry near 112th was a feature of the opening of schools September 6, 1929. There is a full basement and two stories in the structure which is entirely fireproof. Kings and Dixon of Mitchell were architects. Ground was broken in the fall of 1925, and the school was completed in the summer. General contract work was done by Goetz Construction of Yankton, plumbing by Loft and Highbees, electrical wiring and fixtures by Shaffer Electrical Services. There were 100 students attending the first four grades there. Each classroom was able to seat 35.

Beadle School is a modern fireproof structure of brown bricks built. The entire front was almost entirely made of windows insuring plenty of light. There are two stories and a basement where there is a large play room and furnace. Each story has two classrooms and toilet facilities. Classrooms are in light oak woodwork and maple floors and furnished with golden oak furniture. At the rear of each room is a closet for wraps.

A Unisventilator system insures circulation of warm fresh air. Each classroom has nine large windows on the west side with curtains attached which may be pulled down when the sun rays pour in too brightly from the western sky. The classrooms are completely equipped with modern fixtures.

The tiled floors are of polished stone. Oak guard railings have been placed by sides of all staircases. Walls are finished in white throughout the entire building.

The school was named after Gen. W.H.H. Beadle, a prominent editor of the territory in pioneer days. When the school was built it was so constructed that an additional unit might be added to the east side of the building if the enrollment warranted such a move in the future.

The original 1926 structure has been added to on five occasions - 1940, 1950, 1963, 1969, and 1972. At the present time it consists of 20 classrooms, a large gym, offices, etc. The present enrollment is 300 students.

Mrs. Pauline Kolberg of Mitchell is believed to be the living teacher who taught at Beadle 50 years ago.

At the present time, 1985, the enrollment is 249 students - 20 classrooms with 18 classroom teachers and a resource room; also music, P.E., speech therapist, and a school psychologist.

by Edith Anderson

Clay Valley School, District No. 72.

house to be 28 18 10 feet. One acre of land located five miles west, one south, and one quarter west of Irene was purchased from Mrs. Lee for $40.00.

The building committee appointed were: Henry Hauger, Martin Anderson, and Joe Lee.

School board officers appointed were: Henry Hauger, chairman; Martin Gorseht, clerk; and Ole G. Gorseht, treasurer.

On the 22nd of June, 1904, a meeting was held at the Henry Hauger home to let bids for building the school house, coal shed, and closet. Erick Anderson was low bidder of $97.00 for carpenter work and painting. S.P. Mortensen bid 10 cents per yard for plastering and 30 cents per foot for building the chimney.

At a meeting on July 12, 1904, at the Mrs. John Lee home a bid of $400.00 for material and lumber was accepted from the Union Lumber Co. and $1.50 per thousand for hauling lumber from Irene to the school house site and $2.00 per load of sand, brick, and plaster.

School opened the second Monday in October of 1904 for a term of six months, W.N. McCoun was hired for teaching at $40.00 per month.

At a meeting on July 11, 1905 it was voted to levy a tax of $300.00 for the coming year. Some of the early teachers were as follows: Julia Johnson 1905-1906 and 1906-1907 for six months terms at $40.00 per month; 1907-1908 Alice Carter Ford at $50.00 a month for a six month term; 1908-1909 Sylvia Summers at $45.00 a month for a six month term; Marie Vogndahl taught from 1909-1911 for one six month term and one seven month term; 1911-1912 Elizabeth Alder taught a 7 month term for $45.00 per month; 1912-1913 Nellie VanDerBulte taught a seven month term for $45.00 a month.

In 1918 it was voted to have eight month school term, and in 1928 it was voted to have nine month school term.

On July 1, 1969, the Clay Valley School was annexed to the Irene School District.

Elizabeth Lucas was the last teacher at the school teaching the 1970-71 term. The school closed in May 1971.

by Johnie Lee

Cornbelt School

No. 71

No. 71 Cornbelt School built 1929 in Yankton County.

The building was purchased from a former district (later named the Sunrise District) and was moved to its new location on Madole farm land. At that time rain and mud made moving almost impossible. It was mounted on high - wheeled wagons and pulled by teams of horses, a "rig" owned by the Campion menfolk. When it turned off the main road, it got stuck and had to be unloaded on the spot, even though it was very close to the main road. Due to bad weather conditions, it was left standing there.

The one small room was crowded, with its coal stove in the center and double - seat desks fastened to the floor. The children brought their own books in Yankton. At this time teachers were quite well educated, holding either first or second grade certificates. A Yankton girl, Anna Minnik, was the first teacher in the Boe School.

Later because of increasing enrollment, 45 pupils, an addition to the building was built on an adjoining 1/4 acre provided by Mrs. Connell. Her grandmother, Katie Madole, let them use the land which formerly belonged to a great-grandfather, Patrick Carey. The federal government had given him a land grant after the Civil War, as stated by Dorothy Connell, who presently owns the farm.

A souvenir booklet given to pupils in 1904 by their teacher, A.B. Noonan. School board officers were Patrie Pras, P.H. Boe, Treas.; John Ti also listed the following 20 pt. Michael, and Mary McKenna; E. Campion; Rivkes, Alma, Emma Sanford Erickson; Mary, John Nipp; Flora and Harry Boe; Josephine Kaiser Embick; John Froehlich.

In a 1912 souvenir booklet members were Carl Erickson Henry Boe, Treas; and William Sylvia Summers, the pupils to the previous list: I Nellie, Agnes, and John Erickson Fred, and Mary Goebel; Ferris Ella Toth; Charlie, Francis, Ma Evangelista, Alice, and Palse Emma Nipp; Irene Buckste; Hau Elser and Frank Holbeck. One time the Francis McDonald fan children attended and graduate from School.

In 1929 a new standard type writing was finished and called Corn The old building was sold to the stood by the Mayfield Store. The first teacher in new Corn Lorraine Kapperman from Do Dakota. New board members were Harry Boe, A.C. Larson, and WI. As time went by, many of the were consolidated to be more of schools with less than five or six students closed. The last schoolmasters of Cornbelt No. 71 were pro, Daane Larsen, and Kenneth The last teacher, for 8 years, was (Elizabeth) Lucas. During her fires were kept burning, and in 1948 there were six. The Cornbelt B purchased by the Tiesen family, of the Jim River Bridge on old 1 and remodeled into their home. A partial list of Cornbelt School follows:

Anna Minnik; Andy Noonan; nell; Louis Hersimer; Edith Al Renewer; Blanche DeVoe; Car erie, Margaret Fassow; Mia Clara Haddor; Alma Hens Kapperman; Mrs. Zebk; Hendri Jeannette Schimonne; Jolita Haul flier; Margaret Nelson and Eliza

by M.

DEVOE SCHOOL

DISTRICT NO. 90

Pupils and teacher at DeVoe School.

A meeting was held the twenty-first of May, 1904, at 2:00 pm at the home of Mrs. John Lee. At this meeting it was decided to build a school house. The size of the school
by their teacher, A.B. Noonan, shows that 
the school board officers were Patrick McKenna 
Fas., P.H. Bess; Tress; John Todt, Clerk. It 
also lists the following 20 pupils: Laura, 
Michael, and Mary McKenna; Eugene Willie 
Campbell; Elvira, Alma, Emma, Sarah, 
and Sanford Erickson; Mary, John, and 
Eddie Nipp; Flora and Harry Bess; Laura 
and Josephine Kaiser; Rosella, John, and 
Arthur Froehlich.
In a 1912 booklet the board members 
were Carl Erickson Chairman; 
Henry Bos, Tress; and William Nipp Clerk. 
Sylvia Sumner, the teacher, had added 
these pupils to the previous list: Peter Kaiser; 
Nellie, Agnes, and John Erickson; Katie, Ida, 
Fred, and Mary Goebel; Jeremia McKenna; 
Ella Todt; Charlie, Francis, Maggie, James, 
Evangelie, Alice, and Patay Slowey; Johan-
ness Nipp; Irene Buckste; Haskal Burrows; 
Eise and Frank Holbrook. Over a period of 
time the Francis McDonald family had ten 
teachers attend and graduate from Cornbelt School.
In 1929 a new standard type school build-
ing was finished and called Cornbelt No. 71. 
The old building was sold to the county and 
stood by the Mayfield Store.
The first teacher in new Cornbelt was 
Lorraine Kapperman from Dolton, South 
 Dakota. New board members elected were 
Harry Bos, A.C. Larson, and William Nipp.
As time went by, many of the 73 districts 
were consolidated to make more efficient, 
and schools with less than five students were 
usually closed. The last school board mem-
bers of Cornbelt No. 73 were Pete Vander-
pool, Darse Larson, and Kenneth Petersen. 
The last teacher, for 8 years, was Mrs. Arnold 
(Elizabeth) Lucas. During her first year there 
were 19 students, and in her last year (1978) 
there were six. The Cornbelt Building was 
purchased by the Ticeau family, moved west 
of the Jim River Bridge on old Highway 50, 
and remodelled into their home.
A partial list of Cornbelt School teachers 
follows:
Anna Minnick; Andy Noonan; Lou O'Con-
nell; Lewis Heinsine; Edith Airem; Sylvia 
Sumner; Blanche DeVoe; Carmeta Fag-
etang; Margaret Fanslow; Miss Petersen; 
Clara Haddolph; Alma Hewel; Lorraine 
Kapperman; Mrs. Zeb; Hendrina Rouzen; 
Jeanette Schramm; Jullita Hask; Fern Le-
far; Margaret Nielsen and Elizabeth Lucas.

by Mary Olson

DEVOE SCHOOL
DISTRICT NO. 61

DeVoe No. 61, Mission Hill.

In 1896 the DeVoe and Rempp School 
Districts were one district. The school at that 
time was located on the Noonan corner, one 
mile north of the present location. In 1900 the 
district split into two separate districts, 
Rempp No. 18 and DeVo No. 61.
The land on which the school was built 
was homesteaded by George DeVoe. He sold it 
To Justin Bacon, who later sold an acre to 
the school district for $800.

The one-room school was built in 1900. It 
was long and narrow with three long windows 
on each side. It was heated with a barrel-
type wood stove, which stood on four legs, 
was narrow at the bottom and rounded like a 
barrel at the top. The desks were either single 
or double, and a recitation bench was up front 
where the pupils sat during class time.

Kerosene lamps were used when they had 
an evening program. Later they used gas 
lamp. The children received souvenirs at the 
end of the school terms. These were in the 
form of a little booklet with all the names of 
the pupils who attended that year.

When help was needed on the farm, the 
older boys stayed home to help with the work 
for a certain number of days.

Some of the earliest teachers were Miss Ida 
Feng, Lily Bason, and Cora Berkley, who 
were only 15 years old at the time she started 
teaching.

The subjects taught were writing, arithmetic, 
history, geography, spelling, and languages. 
Every Friday they had pennmanship and 
art work.

In the fall of the year 1928, a tornado struck 
in the area but went over the school house 
without any damage. It hit several farms near 
by. Due to this scare a storm shelter and a 
cave were built on the school house to help 
protect teachers and pupils in the event of 
another storm.

In 1965 a new addition was built to handle 
the growing enrollment. The school closed in 
1968-69 and joined the Yankton district. It 
was later sold at auction and remodeled into 
a modern home.

The following is a list of the teachers at 
DeVoe until its closing: Viria M. Stephens, 
Minnie M. Beardslair, Alma Larson, Mary 
Guthrie, Agnes Brennen, Beulah Parsons, 
Ruth C. Walsh, Beulah Nelsen, Jane Marcel-
on, Elsie Schmeling, Esther Vandenbold, 
Ellen Noonan, Helen Zwikiszki, Gladys Van 
Doele, Dulcie Thompson, Mary Morton, 
Leona Petersen, Myra Juttedstad, Ruby 
Benson, Olive Almond, Lucilie Schults, 
Laverella Johnson, Mildred Smith, Ruby 
Long, Mildred Helgerson, Gladys Larson, 
Vera Stewart, Dorothy Hanson, Edith An-
derson, Alice Duncan, Mary Lois Hunhoff 
 Gibson, Mary Jane Hisek, Gretchen Strum-
beck, Maude Halsey, Ruby Jirick, and Grace 
Turner.

by Mrs. Jari Holman

ELL M GROVE SCHOOL

Ellm Grove School, District No. 53, located in the N.E. 1/4 of the S.W. 1/4 of Section 4, of Yankton County, was organized in 1883. This 

Elm Grove School taken in 1908.

Elm Grove School taken in 1914-1916 the teacher at that time was Mabel Dluhy.
FEISBKE COUNTRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

No. 14

Fishbeck Country School District No. 14 was built and organized in early 1870 on land of the homestead filed upon by Levi Fishbeck in 1869. Fishbeck served many years on the school board.

Early teachers were Miss Alma, Mr. Cloud, Miss Jenny Murphy, who spent the night with her pupils in the schoolhouse during the blizzard of 1888. She later became a physician and practiced in Yankeon. Others were Kate Brown, John Coacher, and a John Smith from Youngstown, Ohio.

Around 1898, Martin Schneider was a pupil there and his teacher was A.J. Eller- man, and later Charles Smith from Utica.

The McGoffey Reader was used.

Other teachers were Victoria Karolovits, Joseph Uncho, Genevieve Lawrence, Edith Heman, and Katherine Frick (Kabeseman) who was teaching in 1910 and reported "we very much need in place of the small pupils. Their little feet dance about a foot from the door and this is injurious to their health." Also teaching were Rose Mathiesen, Ida Clark, Roseann Allen, and Ester Delay. In 1894 Fannie Phillips received a contract for $30 a month. Tenney Pepler (Walla) taught 1910-1911 for $46 a month, and the enrolment was 30.

In 1919 the teacher was Ellen Cassidy, then Lucy Kramp, Addie Conrey, Ethel Gale, Margaret Schneider, Katherine Schmitter, Emma Tracy, Alv Hausted, Ida Kocorek, Lillian Joachim, Adeline Krallieck, Agnis Zitka, Helen Bride, and Thelma Anderson; others were Amanda Mielke, Mabel Lace, Neta Smith, Mrs. Andy Thompson, Dorothy-Knodel, Katherine (Schneider) Huber, Verna Hansen, Beth Gerda, Lorraine List, and Adeline Hidley.

Two known families had three generations attend the school. Martin Schneider, his wife, Thelma and Eileen, and grandchildren Carrollyse and Kent Frank; Also there were Clarence Courtney Sr. and Jr. and a grand- daughter.

Family names attending the school were: Knapp, Lepper, Bridg, McHenry, Rd Schmitter- schmitter's, and Martin Schmitter's, Bracketts, Lar- son, Beers, Lane, Meier, Van Den Brand, Kukhta, Kofit, Davies, Borky, Barchock, Petrunek, Casey, White, Kloosid, Simonsen, and Rohrman.


1997 ended the school. This was due to the fact that all country schools were closed, and the pupils were sent to Utica or Yankeon. In 1968 a public auction was held and everything sold and the school house was moved away. The sale brought $500.00 for the entire lot.

The size of the school varied, sometimes as high as 50 and as low as nine.

Students varied from $475 a year in the 1940's to $3500 a year in the 1960's. Mabel Lane taught there seven years, which was the longest of any teacher.

In the 1960's the schoolhouse was the center of community doings. Sunday School was held there. Lanthers slide pictures were shown; temperance and woman suffrage lectures were given. In election years there were political rallies by both parties. Farmers' Union Meetings were held as was political and holiday programs.

There was no school in Utica in 1870 so pupils had to walk the mile and a half to the Fishbeck Country School.

by Eileen Busch

GAYVILLE VOLIN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

The first school was taught by a Mr. Sunde in 1873 in the Wadsworth home. But Mr. F.P. Hardin, who was hired by the members of the Gayville School Board to teach the first three

- month term of school, was considered the first teacher. His wages, $40 a month, depended upon the ability of the board to collect the taxes.

Gayville's first school building was a claim shanty, 14 by 18 feet, built of cottonwood lumber and finished inside with brown building paper. It was furnished with a small table, a chair, and a blackboard. For texts, Mr. Hardin used some song books and dictionaries brought from Ohio along with a set of maps, a globe, and some cubical blocks.

He was given tools and lumber and made benches for the children. He decorated the drab walls with a bright "Welcome" cut from colored cardboard and a motto, "Learn something every day". As the children started to enroll, he found he didn't have enough benches, and for a time he spent his noon hours making additional ones.

Mr. Hardin's register listed the following pupils: Joseph Daily, age 4; William Van and Augusta Ivason, age 5; Adda Daily and Alva Peterson, age 6; Anna Young and Louis Olson, age 7; Ole Christensen, Edwin Lewis, Mavis Daily, Sarah Watson, and Jorgin

- na Johnson, age 5; Sterkki Starckson, age 6; Atenta Olson, Sidna Iverson, Kells Olson, Maggie Sterckson, Hans Pederson, William Schiissler, Hannah Olson, and Samuel An- derson, age 11; Frank Warfield, age 12; Mary Schiissler, Fairman Wilson, and John Chris- tensen, age 13; Anna Anderson, age 14; Mary Peterson, and Blakly, Dewel Vinton and Paul Olson, age 10; Ernberg Anderson, William Hardin, and Andrew Olson, age 18; Newton Blagdott, age 19; and Ole Mikahilson, age 22. No age was listed for a Peterson and Eddie Christenson.

In 1875 the school was moved to a new home, later known as the Langish house, with Mrs. R.C. Wasler as teacher. From 1908 to 1886 Mr. N.M. Hils taught the school and is considered one of Gayville's pioneer teach- ers. In 1892 a new frame building was built at a cost of $2075, and the enrollment was 49 pupils with two teachers. In 1896 a sixth grade was added, but due to some objection, just eight grades were offered the next five years.

Eloquently graduated examinations were held on May 3, 1901, for the eighth grade graduates including Vern Comkin, Alice Dahl, Julian Aselt, Ella Myrnes, Elmer Rockman, Matilda Larson, Katherine Blag- dott, Leon Johnson. Sena Lund graduated in 1905. The first 11 - year graduates were Abos.

Aaseth, Artinee Blanders, Mable Olland in 1908. The school students and 108 staff of five teachers and 106 students were $500 and for $1. In 1914 the increased enrollment was the school house, built at a cost of about $15.00. Supt. E.L. Bergesf and faculty had the high school on the ac- campus, and the team consisting of

- Melvin Peterson, Clifford Hi

- Ernst Olson, and Billing Byrsk. no gymnasts so they had to do outdoor court and later at the T. They won 25 of 32 games at the semi-finals at Rapid City 14 to Mitchell.

Staff and students continue the north wing was added and a gymnasium and a stage. In

- Gayville-Volin Independent No 82 began to operate, w grades in Volin and junior grades.

The enrollment in 1964-11
dents in all grades. The 2nd superintendent, two principal manager who serves as a teachers, two custodians, two cooks with one helper and one employee.

by Le

GROVE SCH

Records date back 100 years first tar paper school, a one furnished with wooden benches, heated with a wood ventilated through cracks in the siding. This pioneer school stood in what is now "old Highway 50" where about where

The First Grade class at Fishbeck No. 14 L - R: Don Schmann, Ferre Hauser, Dale Fishbeck, Marjorie Koffs, and Carrollyse Frank. Taken in 1941-1942.
m rallies by both parties. For
a meetings were held as were pie holiday programs.

No school in Ulton in 1870 so to walk the mile and a half to the country School.

by Eileen Busch

FVille Volin
DEPENDENT
SCHOOL

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ed's register listed the following high daily, age 4; William Walton sta Iverson, age 5; Adda Daily and source, age 6; Anna Young and Louisa 7; Ole Christensen, Edwin Lew- a Daily, Sarah Walton, and Jorgin- e, age 8; Sterkli Steichen, age 9; son, Sidna Iverson, Kellie Olson, zickstein, Hans Pederson, William Hannah Olson, and Samuel Ander- 11; Frank Warfield, age 13; Mary Fairman Wilson, and John Chri- 13; Anna Anderson, age 14; Mary Christian Blakly, Dell Vinton, and son, age 16; Enger Anderson, fardin, and Andrew Olson, age 17; ldotter, age 18, and Ole Mikkelson, o age was listed for a Peterson and ristrom.

l the school was moved to a new ae known as the Lungfarm house, H.C. Walton as teacher. From 1873 fr. N.M. Hills taught the school and the red one of Gayville's pioneer educa- new a frame building was built of $2975, and the enrollment was 95, i. two teachers. In 1896 a notch s added, but due to some objection, ages were offered the next five

e graduation exercises were held 3, 1901, for the first 1/2 grade a including Virl Conklin, Alice lien Aaseth, Elise Myron, Lincoln a, Malinda Larson, Katherine Blid- Johnson. Sona Lund graduated in a first 12 - year graduates were Alman

Asch, Artincle Blodgett, Maude Hoope, Maude Dillion in 1908. There were 24 high school students and 108 elementary with a staff of five teachers, salaries for male teachers were $80 and for women, $50.

In 1914 the increased enrollment required a larger school so the present structure was built at a cost of about $15,000. By 1920-21, Sept. R.L. Bernsagel and faculty managed to have the high school on the accredited list. He coached the team consisting of five players — Melvin Pederson, Clifford Hill, Malvin Ditta, Ernest Olson, and Ilting Byrkland. They had no gymnasium so they had to practice on an outdoor court and later at the Volin Town Hall. They won 22 of 25 games and played in the semi-finals at Rapid City; they lost 25 to 14 to Mitchell.

Staff and students continued to increase so the north wing was added to provide a gymnasium and a stage. In 1969 the combined Gayville-Volinh independent district No. 82 began to operate, with elementary grades in Volin and junior and senior high in Gayville.

The enrollment in 1940-1945 was 179 stu- dents in all grades. The staff includes 1 superintendent, two principals, one business manager who serves as a secretary, 19 teachers, two custodians, two bus drivers, two cooks with one helper and one Green Thumb employee.

by Lucille Hardin

GROVE SCHOOL

Records date back 100 years or more to the first tar paper school, a one room building furnished with handmade tables and benches, heated with a woodburner, well- ventilated through cracks in the poor board siding. This pioneer stood just off what is now "old Highway 60" about where the Ambrose

Schenk home is now located. Pupils drank from a common dipper; water was hauled in pails by boys eager to run errands which would release them from classroom work.

Records show that after the flood of 1881, the school was moved to a new location about three quarters of a mile north of the present school site, east of Yankeet. It then is that it acquired the name of Grove owing to its location in a grove of trees. The teacher at that time was being paid $30 a month.

In 1895 records show that the district boundaries were extended to the Missouri River, and enrollment went up. By 1910 there were 15 students, and the teacher was getting $50. The seating capacity of 25 was exceeded in 1913, and the teacher was paid $60.

In 1922 a new school was built at the present site, on an acre of land purchased from D.B. Gurney and J.C. Gurney for $700. A bond issue in the amount of $6,000 was approved by voters in the district. Mr. Box headed up the building project. John L. Fannestad was the contractor. Two rooms and a basement were built, and for the first time, two teachers were hired.

This was the building which served the district until it burned to the ground on January 26, 1969. Records show that over the years various adjustments were made as the building strained to accommodate a growing district population.

By 1938 there were 93 pupils, and a room was prepared in the basement for the lower grades. Three of the teachers were employed.

In 1955 the basement was remodeled again, creating two classrooms, and four teachers were hired.

The brick school house which still stands was built in 1956-1957. It was decided in 1964-65 to send the 7th and 8th graders to Yankeet Junior High School as tuition students.

January 26, 1969, a fire destroyed the frame building of Grove School. Teachers who had the distinction of riding out the transition from Grove to Yankeet District were Belva Duncan, kindergarten; Betty Paulson, 1st grade; Mary Schwartz, 2nd; Mary Buckman, 3rd; Isabel Sather, 4th and principal; Mary Ellen Lowe, 5th; and Grace Magnus, 6th grade.

Charles H. Alberts was the earliest teacher recorded at Grove. He was succeeded by Anna L. Lynch, Jennie G. Strohecker, E.W. Woody, and Jennie C. Murphy. (The latter came to be one of Yankeet's long time physicians.)

For years Grove School was known as "Box" school because of the long association of the Box family with its history and because it was located near the Harry Box property east of Yankeet.

by Mrs. Donald Buckman

GUNDERSON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 15

The formation of a grade school to be designated District No. 15 was a result of a meeting at the home of Wilson Shearer. This occurred in October 1873.

The men present decided to hold school commencing on November 3rd for a three month period. Mrs. Mary Foster was hired for $12.50 a month. The wages were raised by subscription. The following persons each donating $5.00 for the teacher's fund. P.K. Sear, H.A. Dunham, W. Shearer, H.T. Mowry, C. Hays, J. Hartel and C.A. Johann- sen. They secured the use of a building to use as a school house, located possibly on the W. Shearer farm, now known as the Harold C. Nelson farm.

Officers elected at the meeting were: Director, J.W. Hartel; Clerk, H.A. Dunham; Treasurer P.K. Sear. The first school term was a period from November 3rd, 1875, to sometime in the spring of 1876.

In an annual meeting held April 3rd, 1877, at the Wilson Shearer home, it was disclosed that a tax of ten mills would be levied on all property in district No. 15. This would be for school purposes. It was also decided to hold a special session of school starting April 16, 1877. Jda M. Hinson was hired to teach three months at $15.00 per month. The term lasted from April 16th to July 6th 1877. Pupils attending the second term were Edith Her-
A new concrete porch was built, and also a new furnace was installed.

Some of the pupils attending in the teens and 20's were Robert Anderson; the Nel Andersons, Harvey, Ray, and Shirley; Lester Belender; Kathryn, Helene, and Gertrude Brennan; Evelyn and Percy Clark; Elva and Clifford Cook; the John Cwach's, John, Joseph, Bernie, Frank, and James; the Victor Cwach's, Evelyn, Lenora, Delores, Edward, and Melvin; the Dunn's, Ethel, Beulah, Evelyn, Richard, Lester, and Jason; Hubert and Mildred Ginger; Ada and Fred Green; Mildred and John Hall; the Conlon Hall's, Ralph, Evelyn, Harvey, and Stanley; Ted, Merle, and Wylie Irwin; Francis, and Delores Johnson; the Jim Kottalk's, Emil, Lillian, James, Sydney, and Mildred; the Fred Kralick's, Helma, Alice, Adeline, and Fred; the John Lobbers, Johanna, Marie, Clarence, Leonard, and John; Paul Reas; the Art McMillians, Perry, Marie, Edwin, Julius, and Aleta; Daisy Morrison; the Chris Nelson's, Leona, Harold, Lorette, and Floyd; Willbur, Margareta, and Henry Rosenberger; the Ed. Schoenfelder's, Ella, Edward, Alice, and Christina; the A.C. Sorensen's, Vernon, Wayne, Clarence, Victor, and Maxine; Melvin Spieckenger; Vyril and Beryl Sullivan; Otto Ulrich.

In the summer of 1928 a new outside flag pole was installed.

In the 1930's and 40's some of the pupils heard. The Gunderson school were; Rodger, Wardie, and Joyce Anderson; Delbert Biggerstaff; Shirley and Glendene Block; the Curt Christensen's; Inc, Irene, and Ervin; the Fred Christiansen's, Boy, Robert, and Betty; Mary Jane Dunn; Donald and Sylvia Dorn; Donald, and Juliet Ingebriktson, Leland Hacecy; Gordon Hooper; Fermin and Vivian Huber; Verton Huber; Clinton and Betty Kaiser; Melvin Kralick; Gordon and Clifford Morin; Mr. Nelson; Tommy Ristad; Mollie, Elaine, Douglass, Leland, and Raymon; Dwayne Schoenfelder; Morris and Angela Shultz.

Gunderson School was closed for two years, 1944-45 and 1945-46, due to lack of pupils, being only three eligible. These three Neahrth children attended Prairie School district no. 9. The school reopened for the 1946-47 year with Delores Cwach as the teacher.

In the late 40's playground equipment was added. A large swing set and two teeter totters were installed. Electricity was in- stalled in 1949. In the early 1950's a tile floor, new oil furnaces, and a lowered stage were added. Also new individual pupil's desks were procured.

Some of the pupils attending in the 1950's were; Gay Anderson; Paulette Aches; Delores and Larry Cook; Bonnie, Betty, and Margaret Cwach; Rosemary and Donald Cwach; Linda Eggens; Chris and Michael Hudson; William Kralick; Connie and Kathy Nelson; Char- lene Nelson; Robert and Karen Schoenfelder.

The horse barn was sold and moved away that year.

Some time in the teens the school received an Automatic Fire Sprinkler System. Prior to this, the school was often referred to as the Gamble School. This was because the school was built on the Cwach's property and the school house land was part of it. In the summer of 1979 the school was enlarged and a new entryway was built under the school house. A entry way was built with steps down to the basement. 

The old Howard School #30.

The new Howard School #30.

Howard No. 30 was originally school located in section 6 of G township. It was replaced by a small one-room school. The first rep 907 but it was in session years. Van Ouden was chairman of the West, clerk; and M. Howard, town a new school was built near the J bridge on new Highway 50. After housing several generations of children, Howard School closed and rural schools were phased out. Howard the school was the only one in Gavyn remaining on the grounds. It converted into a private home.

by Bennett M. V.
at the Irene High School on Saturday July 5th, 1980. The day was spent visiting, touring the class rooms, and enjoying a catered banquet. In the evening a program was presented with Delilah Peterson leading the group singing. Everyone enjoyed hearing the Alumni Choir. Edith Johnson was the organist. Former superintendents and honored graduates were recognized. The occasion was a great success and enjoyed by all.

Irene High School graduated its first class in May of 1916, but the Irene Independent School had been in existence for a number of years prior to that. From a picture of the first school building, the year 1894 appears above the entrance. This two-story frame building containing two rooms on the ground level and two rooms upstairs was located at Dakota Avenue and State Street, on the lot where the Clifford Hansen home stands. This building remained until September, 1917 when it was auctioned off to Jens Sorensen, deceased, after the school board had rejected sealed bids earlier. It was sold for $1,875.00, was dismantled, and its lumber was used to build his home in the rural Irene area.

From the July 11, 1911 records the first school board consisted of: Chairman, J.F. Beall (the community’s family doctor); Clerk, K.O. Lekken (president of Citizen’s State Bank); and Treasurer, E.D. Skillman (president of the State Bank of Irene). This board, at its March 9, 1915 meeting, decided unanimously to offer a full four year high school course beginning with the 1915-1916 school years. A room was rented in which to accommodate the first and second grades so that both of the upstairs rooms in the school building could be used for the high school classes. The tax levy was fixed at $4,000 for all purposes; as opposed to the $2,400 levied in 1911. The Course of Study offered the following classes: Freshman Year—English 1, Latin 1, Elementary Algebra, and Biology. Sophomore Year—English II, Caesar Latin grammar, Elementary Latin Composition,

A special election was held on July 25, 1915 when 22 electors voted unanimously to organize the present district into a consolidated school district. The five men elected from a total of seventeen candidates to serve on the school board for this new district, "Irene Consolidated School District No. 1 of Yankton County," were L.F. Bell, K.O. Lokken, M.P. McPherson, A.H. Hagen and W.E. Bissell. O.A. Anderson was elected to be Treasurer. At the August 17, 1915 meeting this newly elected board chose L.F. Bell to be Chairman, and proceeded to draw up by lot for the length of each officer's term. Bell and Bissell drew one year terms, Lokken two, McPherson and Hagen three year terms. N.C. Andrews was named Clerk of the Board. Each member of the Board agreed that it was his duty to visit the school at least once a month. Within a year they decided that such a visit be made by only one member at a time.

Seven young adults made up Irene High School's first graduating class. They were Gladys Anderson, Henry Farnick, Harriet Hall, Nora Ruth Hall, Clara Nelson, Frederic Herman Olberg and Penma Tropper. Gladys Anderson Madsen of Viborg, South Dakota, Henry Farnick of Irene, and Harriet Hall Ericksen of Beresford, South Dakota were recognized at the 1980 reunion.

Same classes throughout the history of the school have been unique. The class of 1918, which was composed of four girls; and the class of 1920, which had two girls and two boys, were the smallest classes ever to graduate from the school. In 1911 and 1914, there were members all girls. Fifteen young ladies received their diplomas in 1916, eight in 1927, eight in 1931. The largest classes graduated in 1944 and 1974 with thirty nine members each. The class of 1919 had five members.

Another special election held August 15, 1916, one hundred twenty one votes were cast in favor of issuing bonds in the sum of $40,000 for the purpose of building a new school building, and buying a suitable site on which to build. There were eight dissenting votes. These bonds were issued with five and one half percent interest. More territory in both Clay and Yankton counties had been added to the school district, so more classrooms and physical facilities were needed. Sioux Falls Construction Company had the lowest bid for the brick building at $27,000, and the lowest heating and plumbing contract went to Johnson and Madsen. Irene for $4300. This new school building was formally opened Monday afternoon, September 17, 1917 when an Open House was held to begin the new school year. It was insured for $30,000. Its furnishings were insured for $20,000. The tax levy had risen to $31.00. The janitor, whose salary was increased by twenty five percent yearly wage than did the five grade school teachers, or the assistant principal. Two of the teachers at this school had a higher yearly salary than did the first and second grade students. The school bus was driven and returned the rural students from their homes to their daily classes.

Automated buses, which were at first privately owned, brought rural students into town for their high school classes in the early or mid thirties. Each student paid his own bus fare and did not ride at all events per week. By 1970 bus fares had risen to about $2.50 per student per week. With reorganization bus transportation became free to the students at the expense of the district. In 1985 Irene School District provides bus transportation for four individual routes.

There may be some truancy problems, as N.C. Fredericksen was elected Town Officer for the 1917-1918 years. Some students took classes in both elementary and high school simultaneously because the school board at one of the meetings decided to compute the pupils' tuition charges according to the subjects taken and passed. The charges for tuition for non-resident students changed drastically. In the earliest records a grade school student had to pay $2.50 per year and a high school student paid $15 per year. Parents of non-resident students were required to pay the tuition for their own children. Later the rural district in which these children lived paid tuition. This practice continued until the rural districts were reorganized into our present system. If a student wishes to attend a school other than the one to which he belongs, the legal tuition for 1985-86 for elementary students is $12.76 and secondary students is $18.01.

Students were given the opportunity of taking Normal Training along with their high school work in the 1930's. A charge of $10 per semester was the cost of this training, paid in advance. Many students took advantage of this course in order to begin their teaching careers. For extra curricular activities the emphasis was primarily music and forensics. Phillip Norder was hired as a part time music teacher in 1925 at a salary of $10 per month. In 1924-25 a full time music teacher was hired. It was in 1923 that the school board allowed $50 for the promotion of Forensics. This practice was continued for a number of years.

Athletics was emphasized in the earlier years, although both the boys and girls had their own basketball teams and competed with neighboring schools. Interest in girls' basketball continues to disappear in the mid twenties; only to be revived, better than ever in the early part of 1970. The 1985 girls' basketball A Team consists of Dawn Brotter, Lisa Rudd, Michale Hansen, Tonja Knodle, Jennifer Lewis, Leif Slowey, Karen Gruus and Tari Hanson. The B Team consists of Amy Hangre, Shelly Zimmerman, Marita Nord, Lisa Woborg, Angie Saa, Tamie Christensen, Staci Hansen, Ann Jensen, Kaye Gustafson and Cindy McDonald. Their cheerleaders are Shella Sampson, Roni Johns, Kaye Soyem, girls' basketball continues to be one of the outstanding high school sports. Irene High School has a boys' basketball team at all levels as well as a girls' basketball team and their cheerleaders. Track and golf have fulfilled the athletic ambitions of many a student.

Gymnasium facilities were very limited at first because the old gym was located in the basement of the school building. That area is now divided into two rooms. The present gymnasium was built in 1955 at a cost of $75,000 was well received by students and the entire community. It provides an excellent place for athletic events, including Physical Ed. classes. It is an ideal place for all of the musical groups in which to practice and perform, concerts and Christmas programs. Drama and declamation contests have also been held here. The school also provided a meeting place for FFA, community and family functions. The hot lunch program originated in the Irene School District. After the gym was completed, and operated from there until the new building was built in 1975, when the school began to participate in the National School Lunch Program.

To facilitate the music program of the school, the "Smith School" which was one of the rural schools northeast of Irene belonging to the Irene District, was moved into town and located behind the main building. It has provided a place in which most of the music groups may practice; the变成 has provided the class room space for the Kindergarten. In 1970 state wide reorganization brought Irene School many rural schools which had been landmarks from pioneer days in their communities. The names of the following schools will bring happy memories to many people Clay Valley, Cornbelt, Lincoln, Lindberg, Mayfield, McFarland, Oswald, Plain View, Rossa, Remp, Riv, Slater, Stow, Smith, Sunrise, Walnut, West Prairie, and Whittier. As more students were enrolled, the crowded conditions were eased when two buildings were erected in 1970 at a cost of $10,000 each. These buildings are occupied by the first and second grades.

The latest addition to the school set-up was ready for occupancy in March of 1974. It was built at a cost of $194,000 and provides an area for the Superintendent's office, two classrooms used primarily by the junior high, a practice room for the band, and facilities for the hot lunch program. Many improvements have also been made in the original school building in recent years. The roof has been replaced and adequate lighting has been installed. Carpeting is an added feature. Cement has been poured in 1985 for upper elementary grades, by the Jaycees, supplied by the school for a school basketball court. This area is used by the third through sixth grade for recess and by anyone who wants to use the facilities after school hours.

Irene High School has furnished a well-rounded education for all of the students since its initial beginning. Journalism has been promoted through the school newspaper and the school's year book which has been printed every year since 1943. The 1986 "Globe Writer" has recently signed a new banner for the Cardinal's Corner.

Many excellent teachers have contributed much to the educational progress of the community. Encouragement, enthusiasm and dedication on the part of teachers, students, and parents have brought the Institution of Irene High School through approximately 70 years of progressive education. Serving its needs are the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Trustees, Ec. Advisory Board, Booster Club, the Superintendent, the elementary and high school principal, a Guidance Counselor and Hearing Therapist, a Special Education Instructional Teacher, the nine high school teachers, elementary teachers, teachers' aides, a Business Manager, an office secretary, bus drivers, and custodians.


School Song: Irene High School is a friendly place to live and work, where our people are a happy crew.

To our colors, true we will ever Firm and strong, united are we.

Rah, Rah, Rah, Rah.

Rah, Rah, Rah, Rah.

Rah for the Irene High.

geneva Oswald Daniel the Alumni
LINDBERGH SCHOOL, DISTRICT #76

After several years of discussion and planning, Lindbergh School, District #76, became a reality. Farmlands from four neighboring districts (West Prairie #28, Rease #29, Central #22, and Clay Valley #27) had to be secured, and signatures from the landowners obtained, before the new district could be formed. Some of the reasons

by Geneve Oswald Danielson, from the Alumni History

LAKEPORT SCHOOL

The former Lindbergh School, #76, as it stands today at Marindahl Township Hall.

by Julette (Lisa) Olson

(See photo next page.)

given for its formation were that many pupils had too far to go to school, and the roads leading to these schools were often in very poor condition. After an agreement was made as to the location of the school building, a 2 acre plot was purchased from Ed Saugstad for $125.

Upon the opening of sealed bids, the contract for the erection of the new school was awarded to Folker Hansen and son, P.V., of Irene, South Dakota. The contractors employed a crew of 2 men who completed the structure in time for the 1927-1928 school term.

The school, which one of the local newspapers described as being one of the most modern in the county, was dedicated October 28, 1927. With its dedication, it received the name "Lindbergh" in honor of Charles A. Lindbergh, who had the previous May flown the first non-stop flight from New York to Paris. For this noteworthy achievement he received world-wide acclaim. The dedication was a part of a splendid program presented that Friday evening, and included a speech by the then County Superintendent of Schools, Theodore Hall.

MrsEmma Lund of Gayville, South Dakota, who later became Mrs. Herman Hanson of the Volin community, was Lindbergh's first teacher with a salary of $50.00 per month. She taught all 8 elementary grades with an enrollment of 26 boys and girls. The first school board members were Adolph Fiddler, Hasen Hoxeng, and Oliver N. Saugestad.

In addition to providing a place for 9 months of public education every year, the schoolhouse met other needs of the community, both social and religious. An active PTA met there every month, and it was there that residents of Marindahl Township came to cast their votes at both Primary and General Elections. For many summers, children came there to attend Bible School sponsored by the local Trueblood Lutherans Church.

The school continued to function for many years. At a program presented to observe 21 years of its existence, the following desire concluded the reading of its "thus-far" history: "Looking over the past history, we who live in this district are happy to be here this evening, November 12, 1945, to partake in the observance of the twenty-first anniver-
sary of Lakeport School, and we hope that the day will never come when this school's doors will close permanently for any reason."

But close they did! Declining enrollment necessitated the permanent closing (for school purposes) of Lakeport School in 1957; and shortly thereafter, the district became a part of the Irene School District 63-2.

The building continues to remain on its original site; and it now belongs to Marindahl Township for its use as the township meeting hall.

by Emil Beran

Lakeport School District #13.

Lakeport School District, #13, was built in 1922. It was located 10 miles west of Yankton. Early day teachers included Mrs. Max (Julia) Miller, her sisters Helen Nelson Weise and Louise Nels, and Weise. Anna Schmidt was the last teacher listed, school consolidation took place in the 1960's. The building was pur-

Lakeport School District #13.

Lakeport School, T144

The former Lakeport School, #13, as it stands today at Marindahl Township Hall.
MAYFIELD SCHOOL

#35

T146

Mayfield School was organized in 1873 in Mayfield Township Yankton County located 3 miles north and 6½ miles west of Ireton, South Dakota. The law required a firebreak around each school as prairie fires were common and devastating in the early days. Three to four furrows were plowed around the acre of school grounds.

There are no written records before the year 1901-1902 when Rosella Walsh was the teacher. She got $30 a month for a 6 month school year. The total expenses for that year was $334.48. The 29 pupils were: Charles and Henry Brockmueller, Sarah and Roy Cook, Anna, Hugh, Joseph and Mary Healy, Edward Johnson, Gurt, Martin and Tillie Peterson, Alice Rinker, Andrew, Elias, Hannah, Maggie, Mary and Samuel Sorenson, Arthur, Bernard, Dora, Henry, John, Leo, Margaret and Minnie Strunk, Bertha and Edward Thorsen, Emma Healy and Mary Stephanie Healy are still living in a nursing home in Yankton in January 1985.

The Robinson Post Office was in a stone house about ¾ mile west of the schoolhouse where the pupils stopped each day after school for the mail. Sometimes school programs were held in the nearby barn loft.

The schoolhouse stood on the north side of Section 24 T166 R55 until about 1946. An energetic group gathered secretly one night, jacked the schoolhouse up on beams on wagons, and moved it 6½ miles west to the south side of Section 14. That was a difficult project in those days to move an 18 x 25 foot building. Many stories were told about that night of "stealing the schoolhouse." The people who lived west of the schoolhouse wanted it moved west so their children would not have to go west to school. A wagon broke down and daylight came quick so they hurried to park it off the road where it remained. There were feuds and disagreements then too. The first year the foundation was poor so skunks and kids were under the building.

A Sunday School was held in the schoolhouse in 1906 with Minna Brockmueller as the Sunday School Superintendent. Anna Anderson was the teacher that year. Maud McKeachie McMann was the teacher in 1911. She was living in Yankton in 1976 and related that in 1906 Mayfield was one of the most outstanding schoolhouses in the county in 1911. It even had a telephone at a cost of $18 a year.

In 1912 Mabel O'Neill had 44 pupils so they decided to add 10 feet on the east side of building. That made the main room 35 by 28 feet. Shortly after a 10 by 28 foot entry was built on the south end. Soft coal was $7 a ton and cobs were $1.25 for a 42 inch wagon box full. It was figured at 3 cents an inch. 1969 was the last year the school was under county supervision. It operated under Ireton Consolidated School till it closed in 1971. Helen Westegaard was the last teacher.

The first known treasurer on record was William Brockmueller. The last treasurer was his grandson, H. Warren Brockmueller. The only known 3 generations who attended Mayfield School was Henry Strunk, his son Ray Strunk, and his son James and Sanford Strunk. There were many 3 generations.

The schoolhouse was used for township meetings for a few years, then sold and torn down.

by Reta Nielsen

McFARLAND SCHOOL

T147

1903-1953 History

The McFarland School was built in 1903 by Mr. Hans Hagen who had submitted the lowest bid of $400.00. The total building was $489.34. The fur $85.13.

The land on which the school was donated by J.A. McFarland and thus our school derived its name Mr. Ed Aune was hired to build the building for the sum of $5.00.

The first school election was district school house on Tuesday 1904. A.J. McFarland acted a election and L.C. Storm as clerk.

In 1969 the school was closed and sold to private hands. It was operated by the Yankton County Historical Society.

Iida Bagtis was the first decision decision was made to build a addition to the school building 0 for a classroom and also erect a new second story addition about $221.00. Up to 12 term of school had been six mos. 1939 the pupils voted to have a six term however in 1967 they again to a six month term.

The question of enlarging the building brought up in 1912 but was rejected following year (1913) it was decided to add an addition to the west side to make room for all the children attendin of this project was $393.00.

Melvin Kamber was the first graduate and the first tuition of paid for him while attending a school at Yankton College.

In 1919 a special meeting of 12 members it was decided to raise $600.00 and repair the basement accomplished and a new furnace installed replacing the old coal stove at the middle of the room. cost was $1168.00.

In 1945 the number of students decided to si
The 29 pupils were: Charles and smueller, Sarah and Roy Cook, a, Joseph and Mary Haul, Martha, Smith, Emilie, and William Rainker, Edward, Eliza, Hanson, Mary, and Samuel Sorenson, Dora, Henry, John, Leo, a, Minnie Strunk, and Joseph. Haul and ans Hansen are still living in a in Yankton in January 1905. Post Office was in a stone mile west of the schoolhouse. pupils stopped each day after be mail. Sometimes school pre- leto the nearby barn lot. house stood on the north side of the 95 until about 1904. A house gathered secretly one night, schoolhouse up on beams on it moved 1½ miles west to the section 14. That was a difficult time; we moved over in 15. We lost any stories that were told about that stealing the schoolhouse. The lived west of the schoolhouse over so their children would go to go school. A wagon brake oft came quickly so they parked it off the road where it there were farms and disapprov-. The first year the foundation skunks and kids were under the school was held in the school- house with Mr. Herschler the as the Superintendent. Anna An- the teacher that year. McMammon was the teacher in was living in Yankton in 1976 and that Mayfield was the unloading schoolhouses in the county even had a telephone at a cost of 150. O’Neill had 44 pupils so they had 10 feet on the east side of hat made the main room 25 by 8 y after a 20 by 20 foot entry was south end. Soft coal was 8 a ton. 25 for a 42 inch wagon box or figure at 3 cents an inch, and the last year the school was under it. it operated under Irene Ed School till it closed in 1971. tegaard was the last teacher. A known treasurer on record was rocksmueller. The last treasurer bynb, H. Warren Brockmueller. 5 new generations who attended school was Henry Strunk, his son, and his sons James and Sanford were many 2 generations. colthouse was used for township or a few years, then sold and torn by Reta Nielsen

IRLAND SCHOOL

T147

1903-1953 History

Farland School was built in 1903 by Hagen who had submitted the lowest bid of $400.00. The total cost of the building was $489.34. The furniture cost $85.15.

The land on which the school was built was donated by A.J. McFarland and it was thus our school designed its name. Mr. Ed Aune was hired to paint the new building for the sum of $5.00.

The first school election was held in the district school house on Tuesday June 21, 1904. A.J. McFarland acted as judge of election and L.C. Storm as clerk. A.J. McFar- land received largest number of votes and was declared chairman for a term of three years. Ben Lowe was first district treasurer and served continuously for 15 years. L.C. Storm served in capacity of clerk for 18 years, and Mr. McFarland served as chairman for 10 years.

Ida Bagstad was the first teacher. A decision was made to build a 10 by 10 addition to the school building on the south for a classroom and also erect a bell tower. This cost about $211.00. Up to this time the term of school had been six months in 1909 the patrons voted to have a seven month term; however, in 1911 they again went back to a six month term.

The question of enlarging the school was brought up in 1912 but was rejected. The following year (1913) it decided to build an addition to the west side to make adequate room for all the children attending. The cost of this project was $750.00.

Melvin Kambach was the 1st grade graduate and the first tuition of $8.00 was paid for him while attending a short course at Yankton College.

In 1919 at a special meeting of the district members it was decided to raise the school building and repair the basement. This was accomplished and a new furnace was in- stalled replacing the old coal stove which stood in the middle of the room. This total cost was $1168.00.

In 1945 the patrons decided to sign up with R.E.A. to furnish light and power and the school enjoyed their light for the first time in the fall of 1950. The school was also insulated for the cost of $327.00 in 1960. Venetian blinds have been added and the old double desks have been replaced with some very nice, comfortable desks. A new oak floor was laid which was a big improvement: as the old floor was very slivered from its years of usage. The members of our board have a pride and joy in keeping our school repaired, painted and thoroughly cleaned.

The least number of pupils attending our school was seven and the largest number was 45. The pupils then sat in double desks and sometimes three had to sit together in one desk. On several cold mornings those who sat near the stove were too hot while those farther away sat with cold hands and feet.

As we are reminiscing, our thoughts are many and varied, we have many happy recollections and almost wish we could turn back the pages of time and return to those old school days when we were taught reading, writing and arithmetic. We even recall the kicky stick. Then, too, we have memories of our fathers and mothers who are no longer with us. Our hearts are filled with gratitude as we think of the many responsibilities involved and perhaps many hardships had to be endured in sending us to school.

As we looked into the past and are looking into the future may this verse entitled "Carry On" be our slogan too.

"Carry On!!" through storm and danger, "carry on!!" through dark despair "Carry On!!" through hurt and failure, "carry on!!" with joy to share; "Twas the slogan they bequeathed us as they fell beside the way. And for them and for our children, let us "carry on" today. The teachers who have served at McFar- land School are as follows: Ida Bagstad, 1903-1904; Hulda Peterson, 1904-1905; Goldie Stone, 1905-1906; Jennie Lindquist, 1906-1908; Nelle Walsh, 1908-1910; Eliee Beal, 1910-1911; Nella Englund, 1911-1913.


School Board Members

School Board of 1903: Chairman, A.J. McFarland; Clerk, L.C. Storm; Treasurer, Ben Lowe.

School Board of 1953: Chairman, Carroll Cook; Clerk, Hermann Hansen; Treasurer, Howard Olson.

Members who have served on the school board: Chairman: A.J. McFarland, Hans Hansen, J.B. Eliffson, O.G. Olson, Mrs. Louis Cook, Clifford Hansen, Mrs. Clifford Hansen, Carol Cook.

Mrs. O.G. Olson, Peter Eng, Mrs. Fred Storm, L.C. Storm, Louise Colby, Lloyd Lowe, Herman Hanson.

The first school program was presented: Welcome-Carroll Cook, chairman of the school board. Solo "Memories"--Ruth Bjer- se, 5th grade teacher.

History of the past 50 years was read by Mrs. Clifford Hansen.

Greetings were sent by a few of the former teachers who were unable to be present and these were read by Mrs. Estler Gustad and Mrs. Herman Hansen. The greetings were from Mrs. Ula Vogmold, Mrs. Alma (Schae- fel) Nelson, Mrs. Virginia Nelson (Judel- len), Jewell Johnson, Mrs. Robert Walpole (Shirley Coulson), Mrs. Alfred Houten (Hilda Peterson), Estella Keach Beach, Mrs. Nellie Kallman.

The following former teachers were pres- ent and each gave a few words in greeting: Mrs. Nellie Englund, Mrs. Andrew Gustad formerly Lane Johnson; Pauline Jorgenson now Mrs. Marvin Kjergaard; Clara Stanage formerly Clara Johnson, Mrs. Frank Cuts formerly Ruby Long; Mrs. Carl Johnson formerly Esther Amundson, Mrs. Caroline Anderson, Mrs. Glen Pickett, Mary McFar- land, Elizabeth Nansen, Mrs. Thurman Smith; formerly Julia Gilbertson, Mrs. Clifford Hansen formerly Esther Kambach, Ruth Bjerse.

Two former County Superintendents and the present County Superintendent were present and also expressed greetings. They were: Mrs. Emma Meistrik, Elizbeth Repumu, and Mrs. Rita Sly, the present county superintendent.

A former student was called upon for a few words, Mrs. H.A. Christpherson formerly Clara Bedin.

The song: "When you and I were young Maggie" was sung by all of the former pupils present.
MISA Ruth Bjornebo, the present teacher then sang another solo after which she presented her pupils with a song appropriate for the occasion, bringing the program to a close.

Representatives from the Sioux City Tribune and the Yankton Press and Dakotan were present and they together with several visitors took many pictures some of which appear in this scrap book. Lunch consisting of sandwiches, cake and ice cream were served to all present, with the P.T.A. social committee Mrs. Donald Rempp, Mrs. Arthur Aune and Mrs. Howard Olson in charge. A cake representing a little red school house baked by Mrs. Wm. Towner, served as center piece for the lunch table. The evening was deemed a success and greatly enjoyed by everyone. It proved to be very interesting over the past 20 years. The few last pages of this scrap book contains the signatures of those present which numbers 136.

The committee that was chosen to write the history of the years are gone by consists of Mrs. Polly Olson, Mrs. Elmer Gustad, Mrs. Clifford Hansen.

Having mentioned before of the former teachers and superintendents present, we will now mention of the former pupils and school board members present for the occasion.

Former pupils: Mrs. Olin Hagm (Opal Aune), Alene Hanson, James Bjornebo, Orville P. Olson, Odvina McFarland, Elmer Lowell, Hans O. Hanson, Arthur Aune, Howard Olson, Mrs. Bertel Gustad (Anna Olson), Mrs. Elmer Gustad (Bernice Lowe), Mrs. Clifford Worley, Willard Cook, Dora Olson, Ethel Olson, Mrs. Carl McFarland (Winnie Wharton), Mrs. Hector Gustad (Helen Aune), Mrs. H.A. Christopherson (Clara Bedin), Martin Eide, John Bedin, George Marcus, Mary McFarland, and Mrs. Al Grewe (Ferne McFarland), Mrs. Shirley Jensen (DeLoris Hewitt), Mrs. Avis (Prong) Highland, Evelyn Gustad, Florence Hansen, Sharon Gustad, Ruth Bjornebo.

School Board members, former and present: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Cook, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hanson, Ed Aune, Mrs. Myrtle Stevens, Elmer Gustad.

Present Board Members: Chairman, Carroll Cook; Clerk, Herman Hanson; Treasurer, Howard Olson.

by Enniece Lowe

MIDDLE SCHOOL

HISTORY NOTES

From a Press & Dakotan Write-Up: Central School, the first Middle School in Yankton, was built in 1889 at a cost of $21,712. It was condemned in 1903. In 1905, the State Legislature annexed certain territory to the Yankton Schools. The tax levy was 14 mills. The evaluation of city property was $1,197,000. The school year had 3 terms and coal was burned in the stoves. Kate and Jennie Stewart taught the upper grades and were paid $55.00 a month with $2.00 extra for administrative duties. By 1908, the teachers were paid $62.50 a month. Kate Stewart, principal at Garfield received $70.00.

In 1907, a tennis court was established north of Garfield and it was maintained by the pupils. Also that year, a library exchange with the county superintendent’s office was started.

In 1916, the present Middle School was built for a Senior High School. In 1920 the hot lunch program was started by Mary Puff Roberts. The teacher’s salary was $1300 and in 1921 it was $1450. In 1922, remodeling at Central School cost $400; a gymnasium was added and indoor toilets established.

In 1968, the present senior high school was built and the old high school was named Middle School. Students from Garfield and Central were moved into the present Middle School. Lee Kanago became principal in 1965. Throughout the years, many teachers served to make the pupils adjust from elementary level of study to the upper grades in preparation for senior high education.

From the Files of Middle School Paper, 1973-1984

This school paper edited by the pupils under the supervision of Florence Erkel, was a good warning device. Some of the events recorded were:

1973 - Three trophies in declamation were won. A battered boat trophy was given to Mr. Kanago in appreciation for the March of Dimes Walkathon.

1974 - 775 pupils were enrolled. Participation in extra-curricular activities were declared, wrestling, basketball, track, band, gymnastics, chorus, swimming, girls basket ball, tennis and the F.S.A.

1976 - Garfield School was demolished and 6th grade pupils were moved back to the elementary schools.

1978 - Outstanding achievements were won. An Industrial Arts exhibit, SHA was having contests, drama, "bonanasa," metric workshop held. $250.00 was spent face-lifting the outside of the building. The auditorium and shop buildings were given new windows.

1977-78 were marked by an outstanding in scholastic achievement, athletic championships in basketball, wrestling and declamation. The use of calculators was taught in Math, American History classes had Stage essay winners and the DAR essay contest. The Counselor’s Corner, a regular feature in the school paper, had editorials in National papers. The Corner had special merit in helping students to know themselves, form proper attitudes and to be successful.

1980-1985 These years produced state and national contest winners with programs on drug abuse, smoke-out programs and a marathon which raised $1288.51 for research for elimination of child diseases. The trophies in the entrance of the auditorium and Middle School are evidence of the school’s achievements.

by Cle M. Youngworth

MISSION HILL

DISTRICT #4

T149

The first Mission Hill School was built in 1904. It was located just south of the Congregational Church, where the former pioneer family of Chris Bruget lived. The land is now owned by the Mission Hill Farms Elevator. The building was moved down town when the larger school was built. It has since been used as a gym, voting place, produce station operated by Marie and Emmett Billings, and for various community activities.

Around 1910 a new two story school was built in the Northwest corner of Mission Hill. As the population of the town grew and more students wanted to attend high school it became necessary to make some changes. In the early 1920’s a second story with two rooms was added. It was used for the 7th and the first three years of high school. To finish high school the students went to Yankton, Volin, or Gayville. It was necessary that they have credit on a Science Laboratory Course, and many wanted to take a business course. In 1934 the school was modernized and indoor plumbing replaced the cold walk to outdoor facilities.

The lack of students forced the closing of the high school in 1944. It remained a school for grades 1-8 until consolidation in 1974. In 1974 the 7th-grades started to go to Middle School in Yankton. In 1986 the old school was condemned and torn down. A new two story four room school was built. By this time kindergarten was added and on January 1, 1987 the building was sold to the townspeople. Mission Hill Grade and High always highly rated for its scholastic and excellent staff of teacher earlier teachers still living is Mr. and Mrs. Den Cadre Caroline Anderson of Mission Christensen of Volin, Cle Y Amanda Pedersen of Yankton have taught in recent years at area are: Phyllis Christensen Ellen Lowe, Alice Hadley, Janie Hansen, Shirley J Kuchta and Ruby Schaffner a June Olson of Mission Hill & first teachers included Anna DeVoe, Mary Flaherty, Ha Pauline Kolberg, Tillee Gath, too numerous to mention or familiar with.

An all school reunion was held on late the spring school district day at the new school district, the first part of the day was meet with the others in the steps were the Hansen, Johnsons, Nords, Westlund, Per Dillewa, Smoylo, Stanmen of Olbers, Nelsons, Gaths, Alde McKeachies, Helga, Le Harris, Gundersons, Mageri Smiths, Brannerthes, Faull Eikens, Haarbergs, Simonen- man, Bapst and families that have since lived the "V". I am sure that they share memories they left behind.

It would not seem right mention two faithful custodi Antoin Johnson and Paul for many years a big coal and wood furnace b carried out the ashes, rang the schoolhouse and school.

Education then was very simple besides the Sunday schools sum was limited to basic bible, consisted of ballgames, picnic and community parties. At that time

Mission Hill #4 first school built

kindergarten was added to continue to attend the present time it has two to enrollment of 20 students.

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Mission Hill #4 first school built in 1905 the second school built.
Mission Hill School was built in a located past south of the Sal Church, where the former by of Chris Bruget lived. The owned by the Mission Hill school. The building was moved when the larger school was built, then used as a gym, auditorium, and later a classroom. The school was closed in 1934.

A new one story school was built on the northeast corner of Mission Hill Avenue and Park Avenue in 1928. It was used for the 7th and 8th grades of high school and housed the school's administrative offices.

In 1956, the old school was torn down. A new two-story building was constructed. By this time kindergarten was added and grades 1-6 were housed in the new school. The school was modernized and the gymnasium was converted into a classroom.

Mission Hill Grade and High School was always rated as one of the best in the community. Some of the teachers who taught there were Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Carwell of Yankton, Caroline Anderson of Mission Hill, Alice Christiansen of Volin, Cle Youngworth and Amanda Pederson of Volin. Teachers who taught there included K. J. and L. J. Palm, Mary Jane Siegel, Shirley Juracek, Velma Kuchta and Ruby Schaefer of Yankton, and John Olson of Mission Hill. The school was noted for its excellent academic programs.

In 1960, the school was restructured to include kindergarten and grades 1-8. The school continued to be a popular choice for parents seeking a quality education for their children.

The Territorial Legislature of Dakota Territory had its first session in 1862. Governor Jayne in his message to the legislature, "There is no subject more essential and vital to the prosperity and welfare of the territory than the subject of education." The early pioneers realized the importance of education for themselves and their children and took advantage of rural school facilities.

The first schools in Yankton County, Dakota Territory were organized in February of 1873. Norway School District was among that group and held its first meeting September 17, 1873 with L. A. Athey as clerk. Scanty records indicate that the first school was held in a building in the area close to the G.M. Thunotres residence in the northwest part of Olde Towne township. Officers of the district in 1876 were: J. R. Biersch, Norway Post Office; A. O. Fauske, Norway Post Office; and Thore Gunderson, Norway Post Office.

In the summer of 1890 the members of the Norway School District voted to build a new school house, 18x24x5, with mud walls and a wooden roof. The school house was built on a one and one-half acre of land, purchased for $30.00 from John Nelson, located north east of the present location of Our Saviour's Lutheran church. The following is a report of the teachers of May 2, 1894: The school house is in good condition. It is a so-called mud house, recently built and covered with a shingled and substantial roof of lumber. The desks are home made but answer the purpose pretty well. For the teacher a chair and a table provided and the wall for a blackboard. No library.

Torge Berg, teacher.

In the fall of 1903 a new frame school house was built on a new location described as Lot 3, Section 96-37 on the west side of the first ravine, east of the Akland residence adjacent to the highway. The building was a 18x20x12 structure with a 18x10 porch awarded to R.N. Strampe for $800.00 which included two coats of paint, oiling the floor, and to support the 4x6 girder under the floor joists with three or more large rocks. This building served its purpose until 1964 when school was discontinued, it now used as a utility shed on a local farm.

Directors who served on the school board for the first 25-30 years were: L. Athey, A.O. Fauske, J.R. Biersch, Tore Gunderson, Andrew Stroude, John Nelson, Andrew Steine, A. Myhre, Gunnderson, Peter Larson, Gutz Evenson, Jul Olbarg, John Borgan, John Schaefer. The Norway post office was their address until early 1900 when the menno rural route was established.

The length of the school term was 3 months in the early years, with a teachers salary of $30.00 per month plus board and room furnished by the district for a cost of $1.50 a week. Over the years the length of the school term was gradually increased to 8 months, with the number for many years until the law required 9 months.

Many of the students were in their late teens and some in their early 20's. They knew that learning the English language was very important to their future happiness and success. One teacher's report contained the complaint that it seemed to the teacher that the pupils spoke English was during recitation otherwise they spoke Norwegian. More than fifty years after the school was organized, teachers salaries were $60.00-$100.00.
per month without free room and board. This reflected the poor economic conditions of the country for many years.

The only text books that were permitted until 1877 were McGuffey's Reader and Speller, Halley's Grammar, Quackenbos's Arithmetic and U.S. History, and Cornell's Geographies. Previous to 1875 the school treasurer collected the taxes, after that date the county treasurer handled tax levies and collection.

The following are the names of teachers who taught in Norway District #35 during a period covering about 90 years. (No school-lack of pupils-attended District 67.)

E. C. Luck, 1873-74; Clara Loveland, 1874-75; Frank Van Namee, 1875-76; Eva Jeffery, 1876-78; Anna Holt, 1878-80; Telsea Holt, 1880-83; Torge Berge, 1883-84; Joseph Burke, 1884-85; Lotta Tyler, 1886-87; Lizzie Ripling, 1887-88; J.J. Hagg, 1889-90; Emma Lind, 1890-91; Jennie Lien, 1892-94; Gina Lien, 1894-95; Bertha Nelson, 1895-96; Lewis Larsen, 1896-98; Jennie Halla, 1898-99; Jean Wold, 1899-00; Mae Boot, 1900-01; Marie Bye, 1901-02; Jennie Grossich, 1902-04; Gar- dia Sorensen, 1903-04; Alice Owens, 1904-05; Florence Broggi, 1906-07; Lucile Reilly, 1906-09; Hannah Christopherson, 1909-11; Lorena Emery, 1911-12; Della Grooms, 1913-13; Hil- har Bergman, 1913-14; Helen Lund, 1914-18; Vieta Miller, 1918-19; Nettie Hvamman, 1919-21; Bertha Anderson, 1921-23; Marion Hanson, 1922-23; Julia Peterson, 1923-25; Theodore Brodland, 1925-26; Marie Akland, 1926-28; Lucile Jacobsen, 1928-29; Joyce Boeckler, 1930-31; Lillian Christopherson, 1931-32; Harriet Brush, 1932-33; Mary Boe- gler, 1933-34; Lucile Christensen, 1934-36; Nellie Thrum, 1936-38; Thelma Akland, 1938-40; Leighton Gemar, 1940-41; Lilly Wig, 1941-42; "No School, 1942-43; Judith Akland, 1943-44; Mervin Systig, 1944-45; "No School, 1945-51; Helen Brown, 1951-52; Gwendolin Ramey, 1952-56; "No School, 1956-58; Merrit Peterson, 1956-57; Helen Weber, 1957-64.

The rural school teachers and school house are now for the most part memories of the past. We can not over emphasize the importance of the place that the teachers had in the education of the young people and also the parents of an earlier period. Many prominent people in American history trace their early education to the dedicated and sincere teachers of a rural school house. So it is with pride and humility that we salute the teach- ers of the rural schools these past 90 years.

Many of the pupils have made an enviable career. Some have progressed much beyond their own experience unless he has the privilege of learning from others.

by Warren Libakken

ODESSA SCHOOL DISTRICT #41

The Odessa School was named after the town of Odessa, Russia from where our people, who originally came from Germany, had to settle for a while emigrating to the U.S. and usually all settling in one place, which happened in this case. Our forefathers arrived in 1873-74 and settled here in the northwest part of Yankton County.

The beginning of the town of Lesterville started in the Odessa district with a post office opening on June 16, 1873 at the home of the Henry Rudds. This is currently the home of Edwin and Helen Ripple (2 miles east and 2 miles north). After a short time the town was moved to where the town of Lesterville is currently located. The school district originated in the summer of 1877. The district was located in Township Section 33, Roy Hermann's great uncle and his wife, Emma and Rebecca Hermann, donated the land in northwestern Yankton County for the school for a consideration of $300.00.

Salaries were $33 as set by law in 1877 on a graded basis and on a scale for the certificates. First three grades were required to have reading, language, numbers and spelling. Intermediate grades 4-7 had reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic and geography. Grades 8-9 also were taught bookkeeping, history, science, botany, zoology, singing, and moral lessons. Although the curriculum seemed crude, it was an attempt to make a uniform course.

Reading was taught in the lower grades by spelling each word, then pronouncing it and finally reading the whole sentence. This was a slow process but the teachers developed some good readers in spite of this system.

Not too much is known about the first Odessa School #1, only that it was on the same place, and later dismantled by Christ Dieke of Scotland in 1916 and a new larger building was built in 1917 by Gust Hajek with lumber that was hauled out of the Lesterville Lumber Yard by Richard Holzmann with horse and wagon. The basement was dug and put in later by Peter Zehl Sr., with some help of other school members.

Rosella Benezech Matuszewicz, 84, Lesterville, who taught at the school for the 1917 term was the 10th teacher employed during the district's history. Mrs. Matuszewicz and she was born four miles south of Lesterville and started teaching school at the age of 18. I had two years of training at Southern State Normal, took the teacher's examination and passed. I worked for $6 a month which sounds unbelievable today compared with our standardized salaries. The dollar bought more then and I think the students studied harder then too. There were no workbooks for them and they got more out of their educa- tions. Before I came to Odessa #1, I taught a year in Yankton County and two years in Yankton County. After a year at Odessa, I went to business college. I think my most exciting day there, at Odessa #41, was when we moved from the old school into the new one at Christmas time. My feet always got so cold in the old school.

"I taught all eight grades involving 29 students. A teacher had to build a fire in the stove in the morning, sweep and dust; she was expected to carry in her own coal. There were big boys in the school, but I had no problems with discipline. In fact, the one who brought grapes and flowers in the remember the first time I ever flower was a little boy me. Students always liked program, each had a part in it. skits. We had skit shows or played baseball. Most of the t. farmers," Mrs. Matuszewicz.

Records show that they have a "dacketed" stove in children attending at one t. 1931, and thus from then attended the school, three in. Three generations of the f. family attended the school as would have been closed this tion would now be attending. Before the time of cars everyone born where the horses were children could either ride buggies everywhere; many walk.

This school house served the 1970 when it closed. Later it Scotland where it stood Basis and was used for aero. Later it was completely dism by R.

OSWALD SCHOOL DISTRICT #5

Oswald School District No. 1 Township, Yankton County, S was located 17½ miles north o U.S. Highway 81 on the west side it was a white, wooden structure by Oswald homesteaders who col- lived in 1873. The school was bui O. Oswald's land. A barn an bathroom facilities were built a
with discipline. In fact, the boy called unruly
was the one who brought me apples, wild grapes and flowers in the springtime. I
remember the first time I ever saw the state
flower was when a little boy brought some to
me. Students always liked the Christmas
program, each had a part in the dialogues and
skits. We had schoolfairs on Friday and we
played baseball. Most of the students became
farmers," Mrs. Matuszewicz said.

Records show that they were very proud to have a "Jacketed" store in 1921. The most
children attending at one time were 42 in
1921, and then the years seven sets of twins
attended the school, three sets at one time.
Three generations of the John Hermann
family attended the school and if the school
wouldn’t have been closed the fourth genera-
tion would now be attending it too.

Before the time of cars every school had a
can where the horses were kept so the
children could either ride or drive with
easiness; many walked.

The boys worked all year until 1970 when it closed. Later it was moved to
Scotland where it stood behind the high
school and was used for storage purposes.
Later it was completely dismantled.

by Roy Hermann

OSWALD SCHOOL
DISTRICT #56

Oswald School, District No. 56, Jamestown
Township, Yankton County, South Dakota,
was located 17 1/2 miles north of Yankton on
U.S. Highway 81 on the west side of the road.

It was a white, wooden structure, organized
in 1874. It was built of lumber and logs of
1873. The school was built on Ludwig
O. Oswald’s land. A barn and 2 outdoor
bathroom facilities were built also. The little
house on the north side of the school was for
"Girls"; the one on the south side was for
"Boys." The rural schools came into exis-
tence as soon as the settlers had a home for
themselves. Schools and churches were the
first priorities of these people, many of whom
could not read or write themselves.

Each rural school had a school board,
consisting of a clerk, treasurer, and chairman.
They had the jurisdiction of hiring a
teacher and taking care of the grounds and
buildings. The county superintendent and deputized
supplied text books, awards and schedules, and
planned county activities. These schools included
grades 1 through 8th. Some of the
teachers at District 56 were Viola Webland,
Esther Wenzel, Mildred H. Rogers, Elsa
Larsen, Mildred Brown, Adina J. Kaufman,
Mary Stone, Mary Swenson, Miss Moeburg.
Grace Heitzig. A teacher’s salary ranged from
$30 to $75, for 28 days in the 1910-1940’s.
Mrs. Tom Oswald and Mrs. Albert Steiger
would room and board the teacher, when
necessary. Pearl Nash and Flora S. Ehrlich
were among those who served as county
superintendents.

Every year each pupil was given a report
card, which was a record of the subjects
taught, grades, attendance and good citizen-
ship. This card was sent to the parents
regularly that they may know the teacher’s
estimate of their child’s work. The grades on
the card were an average of the pupil’s daily
work for the school term. The parents were
required to sign and return it at once. At the
end of the year it was a certificare of
promotion for the pupil. Pictorial awards of
merit were given for punctual and regular
attendance at school for a stretch of twenty
days. Some of the paintings and artists were:
The Coming of the White Man by Reid,
Pilgrims Going to Church by Boughton.
Awards of classical poems were given to
pupils for perfect attendance. Library cerifi-
cations were given to pupils for reading
ten books prescribed for the public schools of
Yankton County. The pupils looked forward
to noon hour and

recess, the merry-go-round, and Fridays.
That was the day for spelling bees, art and
music classes, ciphering at the blackboard,
and rally day; sometimes the teacher would
arrange a softball game with a neighboring
school.

The Y.C.L. (Young Citizen’s League) was
very much a part of the daily routine.
Everyone would pledge allegiance to the
flag and sing the Y.C.L. song. Each pupil was
given a duty to perform each day. Passing
the waste paper basket and cleaning the erasers
outside were the most fun. Next was raising and
downing the flag every morning and
afternoon.

In 1903-1904 the names of pupils at Oswald
School were Martha Oswald, a primer; 1st
grade, Helen Smith and Edna Riemer; 2nd
grade, Adella Oswald and Arnie Soenssen;
3rd grade, Ardona Oswald, Ruth Huff, Geneva
Oswald, Verna Soenssen, Walter Soen-
sen, Edward Smith, Oreilla Riemer; 4th
grade, Elda Oswald and Esther Soenssen; 5th
grade, Florence Westergard, Elmer Oswald, 
Edwin Riemer; 6th grade, Massey and
Arnold Westergard, Hilda Soenssen; 7th
grade, Evelyn Riemer, Raymond Oswald, 
Leslie Huff; 8th grade, Lillie Soenssen, 
Evelyn Soenssen, Gladys Oswald, Edwin 
Oswald, Erna Westergard, Walter Oswald, 
Elwin Oswald; Esther Wenzel, teacher. Har-
byn Westergard and Robert Oswald were
"little" visitors on occasion. Can you picture
all three pupils and teacher, and how
different it was in one room? There was order and discipline! The school had 2 cloak
rooms, (one for boys and one for girls) where the coats, caps and
lunch pails were neatly kept. The school had an entry for the
overseer; the wash basin and water were kept there. The cistern
was near the school. There was a basement for use
and play on cold wintry days. Some pupils rode
horseback to school, while others walked
across the fields and along the highway.

At the town of the school reorganizations the
Oswald School was dissolved. All the
students there were accepted and bussed to
the Irene Public School, Irene, S.D. Since
then Albert Oswald and sons have dismantled
the school building. Pupils of District #56 put on Christmas programs, play basketball, socialize. Valentine’s Day parties, and last day of school.

"Of all the memories of the past, Of Home and School are the ones that last."

by Geneiva Danielsen

PRAIRIE SCHOOL
DISTRICT #9

When the school districts were first orga-
nized they were to purchase 1 acre of
ground for every 100 pupils.
In later years the states
were phasing out the rural schools it was
found only 3 districts had bought land.

It was told that the first school house was
about 500 feet south of the site where
the present building stands. The present
school had an entry built on in the late 1920’s
where the children could keep their lunch
buckets and hang their clothes in the winter.
In the 1960’s another addition was added to

the north end of the school building to make more room for the pupils that came from Beaver Creek School as that school district didn’t have enough pupils and it was cheaper to send them to Prairie School District #9.

When the country schools were dissolved the land went back to the owner of the land that adjoined the school site. The owner Wm. Smith remodeled the school for living quarters and later sold the property to another party; it has been occupied by various families.


by Owen Hill

SLETTHEN SCHOOL

DISTRICT NO. 55

In 1975 the Independent School District of Yankton was created by the Dakotan Territory which established a system of public schools, including high schools. From 1902-1875 various private schools were conducted under church sponsorships and the teachers were professional citizens, ministers and pioneer. In the summer of 1964 The Dakotan announced that Miss Nettie Brommon would conduct a 3-month session of primary school for $3.00 per pupil.

In 1976 the first Webster School was completed at 510 Pine Street to care for educational needs in the east section of town, at a cost of $500. Dakota Hall on Lynn was used for pupils on the west side (the Brown School). Lincoln School on Locust was completed in 1868 to take the place of the White School. Franklin School (new building) built on a site and later became Central. It brought a new Webster, Linen schools.

The Supt. of Public Instr. 1876 shows Yankton County organized districts; 1 private children between ages 5-2 attending public schools; 1 private school; 96 not attended

Webster School was a 2-c building with two more class classrooms if needed. First, a grade was taught. A playroom for the basement in the 1947 basement classroom a relief convention as 56 we Webster and there were large the other grades.

In later years the building and found lacking in fire as lighting, and adequate arrange purchased and used by the Ar for several years, then then Johnson who had it remade, I was larger Webster School was built 7th Street.

In incomplete records found as follows: 1875-1886 Wn. of Schools; 1902-1914 Carrie I $45-$67.50 per month, Mrs. Hawk, Miss Johnson, Laura, Mrs. Swanson; 1914-1924 Ed ($100-$100) per year, J. Harter, Orchard, 1927 I Sara Beckwith, Ella Swanson, 1929-1931 Dorothy Marlow, Mildred Newton, LaVita Rose, Mamie Fairbrother, Pauline Johansen, Edith Peterson ($148.00). Some interest in meetings were.

No kindergarten had been public schools in 1913, although discussed to hold classes privi the school board voted to form, grades 1 and 2, paper, paste as grades 1 to 4 with for grades 12 exam paper for entire schools. In second graders were allotted writing materials; third three cents.

About 1943 the janitor was month during the summer, I assist with painting earned 50 the 1944-1955 schedule, labor received $0.00 per day, inc teaching longer than one in primary schools, tuition for out (paid in advance) was 30 cents intermediate 40 cents, grade school 50 cents (about 1913). Early among students of School were Mrs. R.A. White, Jeutelstolien Lien 1878 Mrs. Obe (Levings) 1899; Lien Margaret Ward 1862; Edith (Caroline Davis 1894; Lillian Schbach 1870; Louis A. Rathier 18 Seeley 1897; Pete Lindgren Jones 1890; Clarence C. Lillian Kantor Mueller 1912; Helverston (Lena Lee); Mrs. Jen 1898; Mary Kantor Olsen 1923; Carl Halverson; Albert Ki Holbrook; John Brustman; Doll

WEBSTER SCHOOL

T155

Students and teachers standing L-R: Martha Lee, teacher, Kathryn Hansen, Lena Larsen (Rudd), Marie Stetten, Bertha Larsen, Eta B. Bak, Charley Hansen, John Hansen, Gilbert Durham, Albert Larsen, Ada Christiansen, Mabel Hansen, Allen 7 (P.C. Nielsen gave him a home; he stayed with them), Carrie Larsen, Alfred Bak, Andrew Johnson, Bert Christiansen, Martin Bak, Nate Hansen, Elmer Midlaugard, Elmer Bak and Gene Bak. Front row L-R: Jessie Hansen, Elmer Hansen, Henry Bak, Ingrid Slettan, Signe Eli, Annie Johnson, Clara Dragley, Clara Slettan, Andrew Bak, Alfred Bak, Marie Hansen, Lydia Bak, Ingeborg Hansen and Louie Larsen. Taken around the early 1900s.

O. Lowe, making three generations in that family who have attended the Sletthen School. The Druglleys resided on a farm in the same section as the Sletthen School about a half mile north.

by Eunice Lowe

Webster School, 510 Pine St., taken about 1915.
White School. Franklin School (old Academy building) built on a wing in the 1890’s and later became Central. Recent years have brought a new Webster, Lincoln and Stewart schools.

The Supt. of Public Instruction report of 1879 shows Yankton County to have 5 organized districts; 1 private school; 225 children between ages 5-21; 38 children attending public schools; 100 children in private school; 56 not attending any school.

Webster School was a 3-classroom brick building with two more classrooms in the basement if needed. First, second or third grades were taught. A playroom was requested for the basement in the 1920’s, and in 1947 a basement classroom was prepared to relieve congestion as 56 were enrolled at Webster and there were large enrollments in the other grades.

In later years the building was evaluated and purchased lacking in fire safety measures, lighting, and adequate arrangements. It was purchased and used by the American Legion for several years, then sold to Vernon Johnson who had it remodeled. In 1950 a new larger Webster School was built at 316 East 7th Street.

In incomplete records available, teachers were as follows: 1875-1886 Wm. Bristol Supt. of Schools; 1902-1914 Carrie Lawrence (from $45-867.00 per month), Mary Batu, Miss Hawke, Miss Johnson, Laura, Miss Jefferson, Ella Swan, 1915-1924 Edithon Debce (1200-1300 per month), Patricia Hart, Harriet Ostrander (1920-1927 Esther Minter, Sara Beckwith, Ella Swan, 1929-1933 Dorothy Marlow, Thelma Sage, Mildred Newton, LaVeta Blanchard, Missie Fairbank, Rosie Kolberg, Ruth Loeffler, 1942-1949 Audrey Hess ($2500 per year), Pauline Bate, Edithon Debce, Mildred Marshall.

Some items of interest in school board meetings were:

No kindergarten had been started in the public schools in 1913, although plans were discussed to hold classes privately. In 1921 the school board voted to furnish pencils for grades 1 and 2; paper, paste and crayons for grades 1 to 4; ink for grades above fourth and exam paper for entire school. In 1906 first and second graders were allotted 15 cents for writing materials; third through fourth, 25 cents.

About 1943 the janitor was paid $100 per month during the summer. Men hired to assist with painting earned 50 cents per hour. In the 1920’s a teacher received $9.00 per day, increased when teaching longer than one month. In the primary schools, tuition for out-of-city pupils (paid in advance) was 30 cents per week; intermediate 40 cents, grammar and high school 50 cents (about 1915).

Among early students of the Webster School were: Mrs. N.A. Wheelock, 1880; Louise Jettelstol Lien 1876; Mrs. Chester B. McVay (Emma Gimble) 1886; Lucy French 1892; Margaret Ward 1892; Edith Gamble 1899; Caroline Davis 1894; Lillian Schanche Stein- beck 1897; Lena A. Reith 1898; Margaret Slesky 1897; Pete Lindgren 1902; Mabel Jones Fjerber 1908; Clarence C. Weiger 1912; Lillian Kanter Muehler 1912; Mrs. M.H. Halverson (Lena Lee); Mrs. Jessie Beardsley 1892; Mary Kanter Olson 1913.

Carl Wallbaum; Albert Kinsey; Frank Holbeek; John Bramson; Dolly Caz; Nora Welo; Grace Graham; Addie Ford; Anna Langer; Bertha Ask; Belle Chane; Maggie Horn; Carrie Kanton Morrison; Max Katz; Sheldon Ward; Miss Minnie Watrous was teacher in 1899. Other well-known “scholar” were Mrs. John Dilger, Mrs. Paul Fayerharn, J.M. Lloyd, Paul Brecht, and S.G. Donaldson.

Yankton’s first school board was set up in 1875 in accordance with an act of the Territorial Legislative Assembly and it included D.F. Bramble, F.M. Zibach, J.F. Dewitt, J.R. Sanborn, Bartlett Tripp, Newton Edmonds, Joseph Ward and E.F. Wilcox. Ernest Myers was clerk.

Sources: Press and Dakota clipping, from Centennial issues; school files; Register of Deeds files; Webster School Scrapbook, Jan. 1, 1902.

by Mary (Kantor) Olson

WEST PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

#28

West Prairie School, District Number 28, South Dakota

Reunion of West Prairie School back row L-R: Frank Schaeffer, Albert Gustad, Ole Anderson, A.B. Anderson, Henry Schaeffer, Iver Smuts, and Albert Hagen. Front row L-R: Curtie Hagen, Dena Olson Smuts, Margaret Storn Gustad, Mary E. Olson, and Gambill Andreas Johnson.
ing persons were enrolled the first term: Ole P. Olsen, Laurence Olson, Angel Haugen, Albert Olson, John A. Olson, Olas Olsen, Hans Stoene, Henry Stoene, Olof Skansen, Otto M. Haugen, John Skanse, Bernt Haagen, Albert H. Hagen, Johan Asath, Christian Asath, F. Alexander Bagstad, Ellen Haugen, Emilie Olson, Mary Olsen, Petra Haagen, Dina Olson, Albina Gustad, Gertrude Haagen, and Marie Aune.

The following textbooks were used: McGuffey's Readers and Spellers, Quacken- bor's Arithmetic, Harvey's Grammar, Cor- nell's Geography, and Quackenbore's History.

The annual meeting in 1874 was held on the fifth day of September in the home of B.A.E. Bagstad. The following officers were elected: Benjamin Olson, Director; Frederick Aune, treasurer; B.A.E. Bagstad, clerk. It was decided to have school for a term of three months beginning the first Monday in November. B.A.E. Bagstad was engaged to teach the school for $30.00 per month.

The annual meeting of District 28 was held on September 4, 1875. Milliag Hagen was elected director for a term of one year. R.P. Olson was elected clerk for the term of two years; Olas Skanse was elected treasurer for a term of three years.

B.A.E. Bagstad's offer to teach school for the district during the month of October, furnishing house and fuel, for $25 per month, also to teach the school during the months of January and February, 1876, furnishing house and fuel, was accepted.

The treasurer's report showed that $156.35 had been collected and expended.

The annual meeting of District 28 was held on September 3, 1876. B.A.E. Bagstad was elected director for a term of three years; a tax of three mills was levied for the coming year.

B.A.E. Bagstad offered to teach this year for a term of three months and to furnish the house and fuel for $28 per month. The offer was accepted.

The annual meeting of District 28 was held on April 3, 1877. Frederick Aune was elected clerk for the term of three years. It was voted that a term of school consisting of three months to be held this year. The term was to begin the second day of January 1878. Ole P. Olsen was engaged to teach the school for three-quarters of a dollar per month.

In anticipation of the building of a new school house in the near future a tax levy of ten mills was agreed upon.

At the regular annual meeting of District 28 (as date is recorded) Olas Skanse was elected treasurer of District 28. A tax levy of ten mills was voted for the year. It was also decided that special meeting was to be held at some convenient time for the purpose of deciding upon the question of whether or not a new school house was to be built during the year.

A special meeting of District 28 later was held on the ninth day of September 1878 for the purpose of making arrangements for the construction of the new school house. It was decided to build the structure near the northeast corner of the northwest quarter section 19, Township 95, Range 44. B.A.E. Bagstad, Olas Skanse and Benjamin Haugen were selected to constitute the building committee. While it was somewhat late in the year the people were anxious to have the building completed and ready for service before cold weather should set in. It was agreed that the work should proceed and that the committee be authorized to engage the work and materials.

When the school closed the pupils went to McFarland and Wallatown. The school was sold in the early 70's to Bertol Gustad for $130.00. The land back to the original owner Martin Larson.

by Mrs. Arthur Aune

YANKTON HIGH SCHOOL

Yankton High School, the first high school in the Dakota Territory, while the Dakotas were yet Territories. At that time the public schools of Yankton were entirely independent of state control, but put the schools under the control of a Board of Education.

In its beginning the high school had 19 students enrolled and offered a three-year course. This procedure was changed in 1881 to a four-year course, in 1885 to a two-year course, in 1886 back to four-year course again.

The high school once occupied a building on Douglas Avenue that was later by the Samaritan Army and finally by a fire. The school was first located on the site of the present Yankton Coop Library, but not until 1887 was a building completed and opened at Seventh and Street.

The old bell that chimed on the building is still in existence. The library served on a Missouri River steamer at "The Imperial," later on the Dakota City, building on the street and on the old Stagner piano. When the old Central school was done in the 1890's, the building was placed in the Yankton County Historical Museum residue.

The YHS auditorium is a part of the Yankton Middle School, was built in fully opened with its dedication in 1928.

The trades building was built in formally opened with its dedication in 1928.

The high school moved into new school at 200 Mulberry St., in the fall of 1928. The building was to be changed to a senior high school, while the old high school was to be changed to a junior high school.

In 1968 an addition was built at 1st Street, more than doubled the new building and accommodate about 900 students. At this time the school was dependent on high school grades 11 and 12 and accommodated 500 students.

In 1968 the Yankton High School was expanded and, student enrolment entered Yankton High School. In 1975 a new vocational wing was added to the building which included for automotive classes and building.

In 1978 a new girls' physical education was added to the building along with storage area for the facility.

Yankton High School was the only high school west of the Missouri River. Yankton High School was accrediting Omaha High School in 1889 (both i ka), and Yankton High School in 1942.

The first student council in the high school was organized in 1890.

A football team was fielded in 1901 only one game that year. The team was chosen by a vote and the lone game was discontinued after one game for lack of funds, but it was continued in 1915.

Girls' basketball was first organized in 1927-28 and girls' physical education was started and girls' sports were reorganized again in 1927-28. Girls' athletic programs began again in the 1970s tennis, basketball, golf and gymnastics for all girls.

In 1974 the Yankton High School was named after the athletic teams.
YANKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS T158

The earliest schools in Yankton were started by individuals and supported by tuition payments. The local newspaper, Dakotian, records information about the first known school in Yankton, started in May, 1856.

"A primary school was commenced in Yankton last Wednesday under the tutorage of Mr. Barge, late of Vicksburg, Mississippi, but formerly of the old Bay State. We trust our citizens and the farmers living in this vicinity are sufficiently alive to the importance of educating their children to give proper encouragement to this very laudable enterprise. Mr. B. is well qualified for all the duties of his profession." (Dakotian, June 3, 1862)

A news article later in the summer notes: "The school in this city under the charge of Mr. Barge is in a very flourishing condition. The attendance of pupils is quite large and under the excellent leadership of Mr. B. the young ideas are shooting in the right direction." (Dakotian July 15, 1862)

Several other private schools served Yankton students prior to 1875, when public schools were established by the Territorial Legislature. Following is a brief description of those schools.

Date of May 28, 1862, teacher Mr. Barge; school likely closed when settlers moved to town.

Dec. 1, 1862 to Feb. 24, 1863, teacher Elizabeth Hoyt (Mrs. Abraham Notsdal), located possibly at the VanDyke home at 4th and Mulberry; following is a list of pupils in Mrs. VanDyke's diary: Luella and Charles Waldron; Anna, Ben and Julius Ash; Katie Cole; Odaline, Ella and Flora Brown; A.R. Gray; Louis Gray; Emma Wood; William Reed; M. Lyman; Robert Judson; George Mathisand; Margaret, Jacob, Henry and Katie Arend; Lizzie Rooscheimer; Emma Young; Truman Riding; Helen and Emma Hoyt; Mary Reed; William Gray; Lamon and Milton Stone; Frederick Edgar; Will and Sam Van Oudendal.

Aug. 15, 1863 (12 week school), teacher Lizzie Hoyt, the daughter of Melanchthon Hoyt, Episcopal Rector. (Dakotian, Aug. 15, 1863)

July 18, 1864 (12 week school), teacher Nettie Bronson, located in building southwest of Capitol, owned by J.N. Bunker, $2,800 per term. Miss Bronson came with New York Colony group. (Dakotian Aug. 16, 1864)

Fall or winter 1864 (likely thru 1865).

YANKTON HIGH SCHOOL T157

High School, the first high school otas, was established in 1875 while the Territory. That public schools of Yankton were special charter that made depended of state control, but put under the control of a Board of

eginning the high school had 19 students offered a three-year procedure was changed in 1881 year course, in 1886 to a three-year in 1896 back to a four-year course

h school first occupied a building

on Douglas Avenue that was later occupied by the Samaritan Army and finally destroyed by a fire. The school was next established on the site of the present Yankton Community Library, but not until 1887 was Central School built. In 1916 a new high school was finished and opened at Seventh and Walnut Streets.

The old bell that chimed on the Central building is still in existence. The bell origi- nally sold on the Missouri River steamboat, "The Imperial," late on the Dakota Territo- rial Capitol building, on a building at Yank- ton College, and then on Central School. When the Old Central school was demolished in the 1960s, the bell was placed in the Yankton County Historical Museum where it resides now (1985).

The YHS auditorium (a part of the present Middle School campus) was built in 1927 and formally opened with its dedication Jan. 5, 1928.

The trading business now standing on the Middle School grounds was built and opened for use in the 1930-31 school year. Its cost was estimated to be $12,900.

The high school moved into new facilities at 200 Mulberry St. in the fall of 1958. The new building had twenty-four classrooms and was changed to a senior high school with grades 10, 11 and 12 accommodating about 500 students.

In 1968 an addition was built at the Senior High School. The new addition included part of the building and accommodated 1200 students.

In 1973 a new vocational wing was added to the school building which included areas for automotive classes and building trades.

In 1978 a new girls' physical education area was added to the building along with needed storage areas, a food service.

Yankton High School was the third sec- ondary school west of the Mississippi River to receive North Central accreditation. Omaha High School was accredited in 1887, Lincoln High School in 1899 (both in Nebraska), and Yankton High School in 1903. The North Central Association however lists YHS as having been accredited in 1905.

The Yankton High School newspaper was first published on Jan. 15, 1917, and took the name "The Echo" and adopted the familiar headline format as "the wise book" or "wise writings." It was the first weekly high school paper in South Dakota.

The first student council in the history of the school was organized in September, 1930.

A football team was fielded in 1900 and lost only one game that year. The team won the state championship in 1902. In 1904 football was canceled after one game because of lack of funds, but it was continued again in 1913 and has flourished ever since.

Girls' basketball was first organized in 1906 and continued until 1912. From 1912-1936 all girls' physical training was abandoned. The sports were reorganized again in 1917 but lapsed again in 1923-24. Girls' athletic com- petition began again in the 1970s with track, tennis, basketball, golf and gymnastics offer- ed for all girls.

In 1974 the name Gazelles was chosen for girls' athletic teams after a contest in which the name was selected by the student council who judged the entries submitted.

The first orchestra of YHS was organized in April, 1917.

A boys' basketball team started in 1907-08 and was abandoned in 1914-15. The sport was revived in 1916-17 with some success and then became very strong in the 1920s, allowing teams to go on to compete in national tournaments. By 1931 the YHS boys' basketball teams had won the S.D. state tournament seven times. The sport has continued as a popular event ever since that period.

The YHS Booster Club was first organized in 1923 with 16 members.

The first drill team records go back to 1932. Members were referred to as Cadets.

The first annual YHS band concert was held on Mar. 15, 1922. YHS band records go back as far as 1902. That year the YHS team took third place in a meet held at Yankton College.

Forensics at YHS records its history as far back as 1903 in declam and debate. The "Wokape" states that much success was recorded between 1903-1910 in forensics, participants winning the state declam con- test in 1905 and the state debate tournament in 1915-16.

The first YHS annual homecoming event, Arcikara Day, was held on Nov. 11, 1925. UHS played Vermillion. Tuesday, Nov. 10, the program featured a pep fest in front of the high school, a snake dance down main street, and a bonfire with cheerleaders at Observatory Hill. On Wednesday, a parade assembled at the high school and went downtown through main street. Class floats were in the parade, each followed by mem- bers of their respective classes. Two bands were in the parade. - Yankton High and Vermilion High School Band. Other floats included alumni and city organiz- ations. The faculty followed the floats in cars decorated in the school colors. That year, only a king reigned over festivities. This would change in 1929 to a king and queen, in 1933 to a chief and squaw, and in 1933 to Queen Minneheba and King Arcikara. By 1960 royalty was known simply as "chief" and "princess."

The first reference found in regard to the Yankton "Bucks" was in a Feb. 3, 1922 article: "Yankton team wins Vermillion. The Bucks win by a score of 22-8." Later that year a newspaper article appeared in the "Daily Gazette, Yankton." This name has continued down through the years.

The school colors in 1885 are red and white. However, reference is made in the May 18, 1973 edition of the newspaper to the colors being maroon and white, and a like reference appears in the Oct. 12, 1977 paper. In an Oct. 27, 1938, "Wokape" article the colors are given as red and black. In 1933 still another newspaper article refers to the new high school flag having the colors of red, black, and white.

The school song, "Owashboard Yankton," was previously sung to the tune of "On Wiscon- sin." In 1963 the school song was changed to an entirely original one, "Cheer, Cheer for Old Yankton High," which is still used in 1985.


by Kenneth J. Henseler

by Mrs. Arthur Aune
and Dakotan, June 8, 1961)

In 1869 Joseph Ward had a school in Judge Tripp's office which later evolved into Yankton Academy; 17 students initially.

July 26, 1872, named Yankton Academy, Nathan Ford, first principal, located 6th and Walnut. Two-story frame (current site of Community Library); 103 students first year.

The Brown School, the first school building in Yankton, has a unique history. A meeting of local women at the home of Mrs. Henry Ash on Nov. 23, 1865, resulted in the forming of the Yankton Ladies Educational Aid Society. They started promptly to reach to goal of financing and building a school.

"The ladies of Yankton held a festival at the Capital building on Christmas evening for the purpose of raising funds to assist in the erection of a schoolhouse. The entertain-
ment was a perfect success, the house was crowded and everything passed off to the entire satisfaction of the numerous guests." (Union and Dakotan, Dec. 30, 1865) By March, 1866, $400 had been raised by the Y.L.E.A.S. A building committee was appointed by the group. Officers named were S.L. Spink, President; D.T. Bramble, Treas-
urer and J.S. Foster, Secretary.

(U. & D. March 27, 1866) "Now it is acknowledged by all persons acquainted with schools that 50 pupils are all that one teacher can manage and do justice to. If that is so, then we must provide a building with two rooms, each capable of seating 50 pupils, and they ought perhaps to be able to accommodate 60 pupils each, for without doubt before the close of this year we shall need room for that number.

At the present high price of labor and materials, it will take the sum before mentio-
ned of $1,350 ($200 to $700) to complete a suitable building. Some may suggest that we wait until labor is cheaper and materials for building less expensive, but this appears to us to be bad policy. We want a school and we want it now. We have waited full long enough for the good of our children and the interest of the town. If we expect to thrive; if we expect a good class of people to locate among us, we must be willing to build and maintain a good public school.

Construction started in August 1866 and was completed that December. A news article August 17, 1867 reports on a fund-raising event to "pay off a small debt yet remaining."

"The total amount received from the festival is $130.00; No. of tickets sold 42, total amount $84.00, received for refreshments, $49.05, making a total of $130.05. Expenses as follows: Mosquito netting at Brambles $1.60, Crayon lost, Parmer $1.00, Inc. Roomten-
cher 70, Nails, Parmer .55, Oil, M. Hoyt .50, Heip, Indian .15, making a total of $4.35. It will be remembered that it was this society that first began the work of collecting funds for the erection of our school building, without which it is more than probable we should not today rejoice in the possession of the finest school edifice in the Northwest."

School Board minutes reveal that the "Brown School" was sold in 1888 to M.B. Wynn for $4000. It was later sold to Henry Ratien in 1963 for salvage. "It was not a very good buy" Ratien declared, because there was not as much usable lumber in it as he had anticipated and much labor was required removing the huge boulders which served as a foundation." (Yankton Press and Dakotan, June 6, 1936)
A 1942 aerial view of the Yankton High School.


The building started one month later, in August. Meanwhile, school was held in two rented buildings: one in Fuller block of the west side of Cedar between 2nd and Lewis and another a store building owned by Jerry Flicks facing south on 2nd between Walnut and Douglas. (Yankton Press, Jan. 7, 1873)

"The Yankton Academy was the outgrowth of Mr. Ward's earlier private school, and in turn the forerunner of Yankton College..." it was the Yankton Academy was given over to public control and transformed into Yankton High School, the first public high school in Dakota. The Yankton High School, as thus started, continued the high quality of work already established by the Academy, and set the mark for other schools which were organized in the territory.

James Foster, Superintendent of Public Instruction, reported to the Territorial Legislature in 1867 regarding Yankton County Schools: No. organized districts, 5; no. private schools, 1: no. children age 5-21, 225; no children in public schools, 20; no. children in private schools, 10; no. not attending, 96. Visitors to Statuary Hall in the Capitol in Washington D.C. see two statues of leaders from each state in the Union. The two men whose statues were chosen to represent South Dakota both served on the Yankton School Board! Both were born in 1838, and came to Yankton during its days as Territorial Capital.

William Henry Harrison Beadle was born in a log cabin in Parke Co. Indiana. He was named after the 1812 war hero, and later president, William Henry Harrison. Beadle served five years in the Civil War, enlisting in the Union Army after graduating from the University of Michigan in 1861. He completed his law degree after military service. Gen. Grant appointed Beadle Surveyor-General of Dakota Territory in March, 1869. He rode homebound to Yankton. General Beadle served 4 years as Surveyor General. In 1879, he was appointed Superintendent of Public Instruction for Dakota Territory. His crusade for setting a fair price for School Lands earned him friends, enemies, and eventually a memorial in Statuary Hall.

Earlier, U.S. Congress provided two sections of each township for school purposes. In many eastern states, the land had been cheaply sold, missing the intended benefit for schools. Beadle succeeded in setting a minimum price for school land at $10 per acre, a fair price at the time, in South Dakota’s Constitution. Congress subsequently included this provision in all states later joining the Union.

Joseph Ward was born in Perry Centre New York, May 5, 1838. Although his father died when Joseph was 5 years old, he was able to graduate from Brown University. He also served in the Civil War, Rhode Island Volunteers, but was mustered out because of Fever. He came to Yankton in 1868 with his new bride to be a Congregational Church Missionary.

"We know him as the founder of Yankton College, but, if Joseph Ward had never founded Yankton College, he would still be entitled to recognition as a great educator. This phase of Ward’s life began in Western New York; while still only a boy of 17 years he established at Wellsville, NY, the first school in that part of the state, and became its first teacher. Two years after he arrived in Yankton, he organized a private school. The school which had been there before had failed to receive proper public support. Under the influence of the personality of Joseph Ward, the public was aroused to the importance of the school and rallied to its support. Two years later, in 1872, he organized Yankton Academy, the first school of college preparatory rank in Dakota Territory. A permanent building was erected and a full time principal employed. In its first year, this school had an enrollment of 100 students. Later this became Yankton High School." (p. 25, commencement address, Yankton College, 1838, by Reinhard L. Nordmoe)

At the Constitutional Convention in 1888, Joseph Ward "was one of the most humble leaders under which the leadership of General W.H.H. Beadle forced through the convention the provisions preserving to posterity the school lands of South Dakota." (p. 12, "Joseph Ward the Builder" Nordmoe, 1897)

Joseph Ward was a member of the Yankton School Board when it was established as the first School District in the Territory in 1875. In 1883, W.H.H. Beadle replaced Ward on the Board.

In 1885, Joseph Ward followed Beadle as Superintendent of Public Instruction for Dakota.

Two babies born in 1838, Beadle and Ward, were destined to influence education in S.D. Their statues in the U.S. Capitol are lasting tributes.


The day is passed when we are satisfied with such an education of our children which shall only include the 3 R’s of former times, "reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic." Education that we want now is that kind which shall not have so much for its main object the learning from books of that which has already been found out by others, as the direction of young minds into the right channels so as to give them the ability to find out and apply the hard and substantial as well as the more ethereal [sic] facts which nature laws in her strong hold." (Yankton Press, January 8, 1877)

Proceeding on this philosophy, the first Board of Education, elected in 1875, set about their work. Those first members were elected from 4 town districts. D.T. Bramble, F.J. Dewitt, Newton Edmunds, J.R. Sanborn, Bartlett Tripp, E.P. Wilcox, Joseph Ward and F.M. Ziebach were the members, with Tripp elected president. A census listed 728 children of school age, and noted "400 would be enrolled in the schools," if facilities were available. William M. Bristoll was employed as Superintendent of Schools and Secretary of the Board.

The main concerns of the 1875-1900 period dealt with school site, buildings, funds and staff for the schools.

Feb. 7, 1878: "The Superintendent reported the condition of the schools, the number of new applications for seats, growing out of the recent changes in the last private school in the city, and the consequent necessity of opening a new school.”

March 3, 1876: "Wan. H. Werdebaugh, janitor of the city schools (salary) is increased from $40 to $50 per month; this because of the increase in the number of city schools from six to eight.’’ Webster School was opened at 5th and Pine in 1876. May 9, 1876: “the grounds at once receive a tight board fence between the boys and the girls’ yards, extending from the building to the outhouses. And in reference to building Webster "to insure the satisfactory warming of it by a furnace should the Board hereafter decide it necessary to improve it." (Minutes from School Board Meetings)

This quarter-century also initiated the era of the Stewart sisters, for whom the current Stewart School is named. "The Misses Kate and Jennie Stewart, daughters of James and Mary Braunmiller Stewart dedicated their lives for 55 years to the education of pupils in the Yankton Schools" (taken from a letter from Emma Stewart Siler). Kate became principal of Arkansas High School, and Jennie in 1890. Kate was principal of Garfield School from 1893 until 1936. Jennie was a classroom teacher and principal at Central School from 1892 to 1944.

Dec. 3, 1878, local school treasury balance, $12.00. The year of 1888 was the last year for the “Brown School.” The property was sold for $4000.00 to H.B. Wyant Sept. 6, 1888 "Gen Beadle presented the
city schools with a set of cyclopedias, [sic] and... expressed a desire that the school be provided with a flag. On motion, this gift was accepted with thanks, and the Executive Committee was authorized to purchase a suitable flag for Central Building."

Dec. 4, 1896 "no liquor, tobacco or other nuisances to be used or sold by students in or around school buildings."

The quarter-century from 1900 to 1925 includes concerns for adequate buildings, new equipment, new programs. Information from Yankton High School graduates of the period. Bessie Burgi, class of 1914 and Dorothy Jencks, class of 1923, gives personal insights of school life.

Bessie started kindergarten in 1905, Alice Daughtery, teaching. She recalled tuition was 50 cents a week. Kindergarten is first mentioned in Board minutes of Dec. 6, 1901. "Children under 5 and over (are to be) admitted to the kindergarten on the payment of a tuition of 50 cents a week, to the limit of the capacity of the room." On March 3, 1911, a private kindergarten teacher asked if the school would maintain a building "which it was hoped would be erected in Yankton by Mr. Andrew Carnegie; the request was denied. Public kindergarten actually started in the fall of 1916, after a visit from J.I. Danforth and J.A. Hoff, noting there were 84 children aged 5 in the community.

Miss Jencks reports Miss Alice Van Oosten, music teacher, visited classes with her Victrola. She promoted the positive view that "everyone can sing." A traveling art teacher also came twice weekly. Students who misbehaved were sent to the "map room," with Miss Stewart and Dorothy's brother, Rooke, was a member of the YHS State Championship Basketball team who went to National Playoffs in Chicago in 1922.

1910 was the first year of the Boy Scout Movement. A Professor Carberry, science teacher, was paid $1.15 per hour as Scoutmaster; and the__$1.15 per hour is a reasonable supply of tools" were purchased to inaugurate Manual Training in the schools.

May 3, 1912 "Mr. Nelson reported that the bills for painting the auditorium and the money of Scarlet Fever had all been burned."

Nov. 2, 1917 "A committee of the High School Girls Athletic Assn. appeared before the board with the request that the Board give permission to the girls to organize a glee club to play games out of town." This was granted "with nearby towns over proper supervision."

Mar. 1, 1918 German language teaching was discontinued at the request of the State Council of Defense.

Jan. 3, 1919 "Garfild School is to be wired for lights.

Aug. 1, 1919 "the domestic science fee is to be abolished, and the food that is cooked to be sold to cover the cost of the material."

Jan. 14, 1921 Mr. Watson requested a school band be organized. Members are to provide their own instruments and practice outside school.

Oct. 12-18, 1924 All schools were closed for Bridge Opening Celebration Week.

Report a new discipline in Central Middle School was strict. No talking in the halls was allowed. She also reported a desire for an electric bell system, a desire for an electric bell system.
Track are Highlights. Except for 3 years, the school enrollment has declined each year since 1971. Staff adjustments have been made, but in many cases 2 or 3 fewer students per classroom doesn't change the number of teachers needed. Also, Special Education requirements have increased steadily; a pre-school program, speech therapists, adapted classroom programs, a school psychologist, elementary counselor and a program for Gifted students have been initiated.

Construction and sale of a house have provided real life experience for Building Trades students. A large number of high school seniors participate in DECA, or Distributive Education, combining school and workplace skills. Each subject area is preparing a curriculum guide of goals and concepts taught.

Private non-accredited schools were adopted in 1981 after hot debate in the State Legislature. Yankton has 2 such "home" schools in 1986.

1980-81 found "Dakota Propostosition," a tax limitation measure, given support, but defeated. Locally, 2 elementary principals were cut from the staff of 4. State funding for schools increased, reducing some pressure on property tax funding.

"Excellence in Education" became the popular theme in 1986. Regents and State Board of Education requirements increased graduation and college entrance requirements. Enrollments in math and Spanish rose dramatically at YHS. Computers became an integral part of the curriculum in all grades. Gov. Janklow proposed a number of education initiatives and in 1984, the voters set a state school opening day after Labor Day. 1985 saw the groundwork for a new track. Discussion about Crane-Youngworth field use, and the related close of Yankton College in December 1984 continued the dialogue on this facility, spanning many decades.

"Out of all these years has grown the Yankton school system of today. The courses of study in every grade are well established, and thoroughly advanced. There is no limit to the possibilities for a conscientious student in Yankton's city schools." (Yankton Press and Dakotan, June 5, 1980)

by Mary Alice Halverson

A RURAL COUNTRY SCHOOL

Fifty years ago, in comparison to going to school today, there has been a big change for pupils going to school in 1986. A rural school was a one-room building where all eight classes were taught by one teacher. A built-on entrance was used to hang coats and caps, the overshoes and the dinner plates were also left here. The dinner plates, which some pupils used then, were syrup plates; corn syrup at that time came in tin gallon plates.

Reading, writing using the Palmer method book, arithmetic, language, history, geography, hygiene, phonics and music were taught daily to all. The teacher had a course of study book she had to follow for teaching the curriculum.

The teacher usually boarded at a home fairly close to the school. They would pay about $10.00 or $12.00 a month for board and room and the home would be within walking distance of the school.

In winter, the teacher had to leave for school at about 7:00 in the morning. A fire had to be built in a stove or furnace and it was hoped it would be warm enough to have classes by 9:00 a.m. If it wasn't warm enough then, the class would be held around the stove or furnace. Sometimes if the school room was too cold, pupils sat with their coats on. The stove or furnace fuel was usually brought in the night before by 2 of the pupils — their Young Citizen League duty for that week. The following week would be 2 other pupils that had that duty assigned to them. The fuel they carried in consisted of 1 balled shelled corn cobs, kerosene for the stove and 2 buckets of coal or if wood was used, enough to last for all day. Many times the teacher would arrive in the winter when the termperature was below zero, or even when there was a blizzard. The school would be very cold on account of the weather, all ink in the bottles was frozen as was the paste. Most of the pupils would walk to school in nice weather, some of them walking as far as 2 miles. Some of the pupils would have a horse and buggy they would take to school or else ride a pony. There was a shed on the school ground that usually had stalls for horses to be kept in during the day while the pupils were in school. In the shed the horses were kept was about 20 ft. long, and on one end was a bin for coal and one bin for coal. Between the 2 ends, an open area where the wood would be stored. If there was any room left, the pupils would play in the remaining space when the weather was inclement, like snowy or rainy days.

No modern plumbing back in those days — there were two outdoor toilets. Water was carried indoors in a pail from a cistern near the school building. No electricity then in school houses.

Young Citizen League meetings were held once a month, electing President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Report cards were handed out every Sixth week and number grades were used in all subject matter as well as the deportment grade. Some schools at that time would only be for an 8 month term. At the end of the school year, the pupils in the 7th and 8th grade met in a near-by school for a State Test. On the subject matter covered during the school year. Having all 8 grade classes in one class room for recitation created "Lots of Pre-Education" for the younger pupils hearing the lessons of the upper grades. The County Superintendent and County Nurse would
come to the rural schools.

Much education was received from the one room school. From out of the one room school have come doctors, nurses, teachers, farmers, electricians, masons, business managers, bookkeepers, P.B.L., zoo managers; also many workers in the fields of electronics, communication and transportation. Many went to serve their country in war and peace. Also some pupils worked for the Federal, State and County governments.

Fun activities held weekly in rural schools would be spell-downs and cipher-downs, which created lots of fun and excitement as all students had to compete. The teachers gave the spelling words and the arithmetic problems. Winter sports during recess and noon hour were playing “Fox and Goose” or bringing sleds to school to coast down nearby hills; this usually being done during the one-hour lunch time. In full and spring, the boys played marbles, weather permitting, and lots of good ballgames were played by both girls and boys together. “Anti-Dive” the school house, “pump, pump pullaway” and drouning out gophers which were on the school grounds or in a pasture or field close by the school were other favorite activities. The little folks would love to play with the older pupils games like “Drop the Handkerchief,” “London Bridge” and “Run Sheep Run.”

At Christmas time, pupils would present an evening program for the public. Usually someone in the district brought in a gas mantle lamp, which people used in those days before electricity. Santa Claus always managed to take time off from his busy schedule to arrive and distribute the Christmas presents.

Some years a Valentine Basket Social was held; the money received from the auction would go into the Young Citizen League fund to buy something for the school.

Then there was the “Big Day.”

The last day of school was a picnic for pupils, parents and all district members, with lots and lots of good eats. The teachers or the district furnished all the ice cream you could eat. Those days ice cream was a big treat, then following the eats, a roasting ball game with even the teacher playing ball; having our teacher play ball was to our delight.

By the year 1970 most of the rural schools were closed, and school buses took the pupils to a town school.

by Owen Hill

SUPERINTENDENTS OF YANKTON COUNTY SCHOOLS


by Yankton County Historical Society

YANKTON COLLEGE

An institution is more than a thing of brick and stone. It is the sum of the efforts and commitment of those who have labored for it. With that thought, this will be a brief mention of some who made Yankton College what it became.

The Reverend Joseph Ward, a young Congregational minister, a descendant of the early settlers of Massachusetts Bay Colony, heard the call to carry culture and the Gospel to the uncivilized West. In 1868 he and his young wife left their friends and their

Dr. Joseph Ward (1838-1899), Founder of Yankton College.

Forbes Hall of Science.

Graduation Exercises
The Class of 1903
Yankton College A.C.A
Field Assembly Hall
Tuesday, June ninth
Eight-fifteen p.m.

Yankton, South Dakota

Yankton College Academy graduation 1903.

The Garden Terrace Theatre taken in 1930's.
comfortable way of life, and with a small group of other missionary-minded clergy calling themselves the Yale Bents they came to carry Christianity to those who knew it not. The other members of the Bank stopped in settlements along the way, but the Wards continued on to Yankton, a tiny river town, where the Reverend Mr. Ward preached and in a short time established the Congregational Church. When the church was built, somewhat later, on the spot where it still stands, there was criticism because it was so far from town.

With his Puritan background, to Mr. Ward Christian faith meant educated faith. It was natural that he should establish the academy which became Yankton College. The building now known as the Conservatory of Music, or "the Con," served as class rooms, office, and on the third floor, it was dormitory. Warmed by stoves burning the coal they carried in coal scuttle, and washed in the water they carried in pails, up the stairs to the different levels, the students lived the plain life while earnestly pursuing knowledge.

The gradual addition of buildings and hiring of more faculty, attested to the growth of the college; and it became known, even better in the East than regionally, for its high standards. Adding to its reputation was the selection of two of its students as Rhodes Scholars, namely Zanthus Brown 1909 and Henry Gunderson 1913.

So the school grew, a four-year school of Theology on the graduate level was incorporated, a connection that was dissolved in the late 1950's.

Perhaps much of the success of the college was due to the continuing influence of the conservative Puritan traditions that emphasized the intellectual life of study rather than the seeking of ephemeral pleasures, an attitude common to Mid-Western pioneers and their descendants. The religious tone of the institution was shown by the college hymn, "Christ for the World, the World for Him."

Over the years the faculty changed, but there was always a strong esprit de corps and a family feeling, perhaps strengthened by low salaries and heavy teaching loads. Young men came, and a few young women, who gave of their best, many until age cut short their years of service. The high ideals of the founders lived into the 1930's. The Great Depression of the 30's had brought financial difficulties. From the beginnings there had been links with the Congregational churches of the region, but by mid-century any useful connection had become practically non-existent. During the military engagements of the nation there were few qualified young men of college age seeking higher education. During this period it happened that a number of the faculty members who had always acted as a stabilizing influence reached retirement age, and new people were engaged, people in some instances with no care for the college or its traditions, but with a great desire for personal advancement. Terms of service consequently were often short. The feeling of continuity so important to any institution was lost. And the unrest and radicalism of the '60's was strong on the Yankton College Campus as on others.

There was a succession not only of teachers but of administrative officers. Presidents were chosen by a board some of whose members were not particularly interested in or knowledgeable about the college. A president who seemed to have a plan to bring prosperity to the school need not be concerned about much else. One of the most if not the most disastrous projects was the lowering of standards for admission. Students hitherto almost entirely from the upper mid-west, had been expected to have good
academic standing and a desire to learn. Now recruiters were sent to scout Eastern states for young people who had not been accepted by colleges in their own area to enlarge the Yankton College student body.

Needless to say, academic standards plummeted. With the urge for a large enrollment went a reluctance on the part of the administration to discipline those tuition-paying students. At a time when strong leadership was crucial, it was tragically lacking. All of which brought about the necessity in December 1984 to close the doors of Yankton College at end of term.

It is to be hoped that with financial aid and re-planning, together with a return to the old ideals that Yankton College may still, like the phoenix, rise again, stronger than ever.

To name all of those whose lives and work built and strengthened Yankton College would be a formidable task. The following lists some of those who gave dedicated service to the end.

Laileen Weed, inspired Director of the Conservatory of Music, and gifted violinist, came to the Conservatory in 1947 as an instructor. Weed expanded the scope of the conservatory. A major in church music was added and woodwind, brass, and string majors added to the curriculum. Instructors were added in each area. When he stepped down from the directorship in 1975 each area had become a fully established department.

Professor Lee Dailey preceded Professor Weed and fancier of irises. Rosamond Bergi taught Romance languages. During World War II she was the one faculty member who could—or would—take on a class of Navy recruits, following in her teaching, the specifications laid down by the government.

Gregg Evans was head of the chemistry department and later dean of the College. A World War I veteran, with the rank of 1st Lt. he was a strict but kindly disciplinarian.

Lucian Harrison was an inspired teacher and gifted pianist.

Dr. Mamon Stewart, Dean of the College, a true Puritan, he was convinced that there was one and only one true answer to nearly any problem. Ruth, Dean Stewart's wife, a gracious lady, she was before her marriage, class of Women.

Nellie Miner was the librarian. She took a 50% deduction from an already meager salary, to help the college in a time of special need.

Dr. Austin Larrabee, head of the Biology Department, was beloved by everyone who knew him.

Lucille Hata knew the finances of the school as no one else did.

Hans Jansen taught economics with an accent that became more pronounced the longer he lived.

Harry George, head of the history department, was also lawyer and a silver-tongued orator.

Carl Youngworth, nationally known and honored as a coach, never once did he suggest that even his best athletes have special consideration if his academic work were poor.

In 1915 the Garden Terrace Theater was constructed as a communal effort of the college and the city. It was to be a civic center for activities of the entire community. The first production in the theater was given June 1, 1915 — Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice." Dr. George Harrison Durand, teach-

er, Shakespearean Scholar and was builder of the Garden Terrace Theater.

In 1954 the conservatory became a member of the National Association of schools of music. It and the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, were the only schools in the state to achieve this; other institutions in the state followed much later. 1954 also saw the appointment of Prof. Lewis Harms as head of the piano department and Dr. Evelyn Hohl, daughter of Dr. S.J. Hohl, as Professor of Sacred Music. In 1960 the conservatory produced the first performance of the opera "The American Volunteer" by Felix Vintiari, former headmaster to General Custer. Vintiari settled in Yankton after leaving the Army and wrote the opera here. The opera was prepared and edited by J. Latten Weed and was directed by Dr. Charles Parncomb of London, England who was guest instructor for the summer opera workshop.

by Lucille Eldredge

MOUNT MARTY COLLEGE

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The waning moments of daylight shimmer on the Missouri River as it flows along the bluffs marking South Dakota's southern border. Overlooking the river and the surrounding Yankton community, the towering silhouette of the Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel reaches into the horizon as a landmark to 50 years of quality education. Its presence serves as a reminder of the Catholic heritage brought to the Dakotas by Bishop Martin Marty, first bishop of the Dakota Territory, and as a link between the Sisters of the Sacred Heart Convent and the

The Bishop Marty Memorial Chapel begins to take shape as work continues toward its completion in 1966.

Starting in 1936 primarily as a teacher education college, Mount Marty has expanded its liberal arts curriculum to include instruction in 23 major career fields. Among those majors is a strong curriculum in the health sciences.

Today's Mount Marty College student provided by South Dakota's only four-past and future of Mount Marty.

For the future of Mount Marty envisioned without looking at past and contributions reaching back to Mount Marty College's 1936 begin.

If one looks back far enough, one sixth century teachings of St. Emulating those teachings were Sisters who emigrated from Switzerland to establish the Sacred Heart Church of Yankton in 1889 upon the invitation of Bishop Marty.

Once settled in Yankton, the Sacred Heart Convent immediately took the task of providing education to Among the earlier members of t Heart Convent, Sister Blainshces remembers the events leading to th of Mount Marty College. The first
past and future of Mount Marty College.

For the future of Mount Marty cannot be envisioned without looking at past endeavors and contributions reaching back far beyond Mount Marty College’s 1938 beginning.

If one looks back far enough, one finds the sixth century teachings of St. Benedict. Emulating those teachings were the five Sisters who emigrated from Switzerland, and established the Sacred Heart Convent in Yankton in 1888 upon the invitation of Bishop Marty.

Once settled in Yankton, the Sisters of Sacred Heart Convent immediately took to the task of providing education to the area. Among the earlier members of the Sacred Heart Convent, Sister Stanislaus Van Well remembers the events leading to the opening of Mount Marty College. The first step was establishing a high school for educating Sisters to become teachers. Sister Stanislaus, Sister Jerome Schmitt and Sister Thomasine Edrich were among the first Sisters chosen to become teachers for the new school.

After earning their bachelor’s degrees from the College of St. Teresa, Winona, Minnesota, the three college-educated Sisters returned to Yankton where they joined Sister Marcelline Gleixner and lay member Lucille Lacy to become the teaching staff for the new Mount Marty Academy.

Sister Ignatius Ryan was the first superintendent. Sister Stanislaus was selected the school’s principal.

“I was principal for no reason except that I had a major in education,” Sister Stanislaus said. “But Sister Ignatius, who had no degree at the time, supervised the school. We were all in our 20’s. We were not a very likely group of people to be starting a school.

“From the day we started that little high school, Sister Ignatius said we have to start a woman’s college here in Yankton. That’s what our community should do — the convent here. And she never gave up reminding us of that. She lived to see it come true. The rest of us were too young to have that kind of long vision, but Sister Ignatius, had recollections of the woman’s college in Indiana, Notre Dame and Our Lady of Providence. So she really had the dream always that there should be such a college in Yankton.”

The Mount Marty Academy opened in the existing convent building with 57 students. Five boys were among the first year’s enrollment.

“It was only that first year from 1922-23 that we had the boys. We felt it wasn’t fair to the boys. We had nothing to offer them that boys would be looking for in high school and so it was discontinued,” Sister Stanislaus said.

A scarlet fever epidemic and the Dust Bowl years are also among Sister Stanislaus’ memories of the early high school years.

“Everybody can remember the dust storm years. It was so dirty in the mornings that we would have to spend a good hour — all of us — girls, everybody, cleaning the house before you could sit down. The first few times, they thought it was funny. The girls got the idea of going to the chemistry lab, and they got the scales out to see how much dust they swept up. Well, that got old after two weeks.”

The Sisters of Sacred Heart Convent looked upon the Academy as the foundation of a college. By the 1930’s, a high school education no longer sufficed. A two-year college for teacher certification as well as for liberal arts preparation for the Sisters of the community and the young women of the area was a necessity.

Sister Stanislaus said the creation of Mount Marty College began to take shape in 1932.

“In 1932 Sister Jerome became prioress, and it changed things at the Academy very much. She was also very convinced that we should start a college because teacher certification requirements were always rising. I can still see her walking into Sister Ignatius’ office. I happened to be in the room. She came in and said, ‘Well, I’m more and more convinced we have to start a college. We have to get all these Sisters that are teaching now and the young people who enter the convent to be fully certified before they ever go out teaching at all.’

Sister Stanislaus was sent to Catholic University where she received the first master’s degree from among the convent community. She later went on to earn her doctorate degree.

“Meanwhile, Sister Jerome and others had gone on to study for master’s and many of the Sisters who had been teaching school for years were sent away to get their degrees. So we had a lot of degree Sisters that we could use as staff at the college.

The college’s campus began to take shape with plans to construct a $200,000 facility. With the sale of a convent-owned house in Switzerland and money saved by the Sisters, $20,000 was raised to allow construction on Bede Hall to begin in 1935.

“In the summer of 1935 we started the
construction of the building that we now call Bede Hall. The college would be housed in this building and so would the high school. People thought we were crazy trying to build that college building in the depth of the Depression. Some people got the story going that some rich people in Switzerland who were relatives of the Sisters had given a large amount of money. Well, it became a persistent rumor.

"The college was built by the hard work of all the Sisters at Sacred Heart Convent and maybe a few dollars here and there that good-hearted people contributed." In 1936, Mount Marty opened as a junior college with hopes of becoming a four-year liberal arts college. Sister Jerome was the college’s founding president.

"We were accredited all the time while we were a junior college by the University of South Dakota and we deliberately decided not to apply for North Central accreditation because we intended to become a senior college," Sister Stanislaus said. "As a matter of fact, when we prepared our curriculum we put down Mount Marty College. A member of the examining team said, ‘You can’t do that.’ But Mother Jerome said, ‘Why should we call it Junior College? We hope very soon to make it a senior college and then you have the problem of people getting used to the new idea.’ I remember we were told no, you shouldn’t use the name Mount Marty College. And so it became Mount Marty Junior College.”

Early guidelines for women attending Mount Marty College were stringent. All students were a one-piece uniform dress of blue woolen serge with sleeves reaching to the wrist, a high neck line, white collar and cuffs. Students were not permitted to leave the school in the evenings unless they were in the care of their parents or a school chaplain. Regular visiting days were Saturday and Sunday afternoons. Telephone were for business use only and students were not allowed to receive boxes of food from home except during the Thanksgiving and Easter recesses. An automatic bell system summoned students out of bed, to classes, to meals, to study hall, and a lights out system sent them back to bed.

From 1936-37, Sister Jerome served as Mount Marty’s first president. She remained a strong supporter and promoter of Mount Marty until her death in March 1983.

After awarding its first bachelor’s degrees to graduating seniors on May 29, 1961, Mount Marty College was well on its way to becoming a quality institution of higher learning serving the regional needs of South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Minnesota.

In 1957 Sister Jerome completed her years of dedicated service as Mount Marty’s founding president. By that time Mount Marty offered Bachelor’s degrees in 13 majors. Chosen as second president, Sister Evangeline Anderson took up the task of accreditation by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Throughout the 1959-60 school year, work continued on the self-study, and in June 1960 the final draft was submitted. On March 22, 1961, Sister Evangeline received official notice that Mount Marty had received full accreditation as a four-year college.

In 1965, 10 years before Mount Marty Academy, the Sisters of St. Benedict founded yet another educational program, a three-year hospital-based nursing program at Sacred Heart Hospital. The nurses, taught by physicians and Sisters, were housed on the sixth floor of Sacred Heart Hospital. Bonet Home, built adjacent to the hospital and joined by an enclosed ramp, was dedicated in 1947. This became the permanent dormitory for nursing students and later high school students.

From 1968 to 1964, the Sacred Heart School of Nursing graduated 800 nurses. In order to continue to provide quality education and to keep abreast with national trends, Sacred Heart School of Nursing was closed in 1964, and students were enrolled in Mount Marty College’s four-year nursing program. The Sacred Heart Hospital continues to serve as a health care facility for health care programs begun 80 years ago.

Throughout its first 33 years, Mount Marty College was recognized as a women’s college. However, Sister Stanislaus said the original charter for a women’s college never specified enrollment limited to just women.

“When we wrote the charter for the four-year college, I went to see Frank Biegelmeier. He just asked this question while we were working on the charter, ‘What about men?’ Will you ever have men coming to college?” I said ‘I don’t know.’ ‘Well’, he said, ‘some Catholic colleges now have men coming to college. You know what we’ll do? We’ll say any person who is qualified may enter college. Does that mean men can’t come? And that’s the way it was. I know the charter has been rewritten since that time to meet other conditions, but there was nothing against it in the charter.’”

However, in 1968, the Mount Marty community recommended that co-education be promoted. Acting on that recommendation, the Mount Marty College Board of Trustees established the college as a co-educational institution in the fall of 1968.

With the growing concern for college education during the 1960s, the district realized the declining interest among Midwest parents to send their girls to private high school. After 47 years of operation, Mount Marty Academy, later renamed Mount Marty High School, closed.

Closing the high school allowed more room for the growing enrollment at Mount Marty College. A new building was planned for the high school campus in 1966 as the high school’s new home has been converted into Mount Marty’s college library and gymnasium facility.

Among its 21 majors, Mount Marty’s degree in anesthesiology 1971 was the first of its kind. In 1983, the anesthesia program created to meet Mount Marty’s program’s only three other nation offer similar master’s anesthesiology. John Tatham of earned the college’s first master’s degree in 1983.

Always seeking to keep education with growing demands, Mount Marty added its adult part-time program. Evening College, in 1984 to help Yankton region supplement or work toward certificate or degree of business and computer sci. semester in the fall of 1984 for a total of 86 adult students.

During its first 50 years, 2 College’s has been under the leadership of four presidents in addition to Siste Evangeline, other pres included Dr. Bruce Weir, Dr. 1974 to 1978, and Dr. William 1978 to 1980. In October 1988, quelyn Ensrud assumed the role of Mount’s 50th president.

Throughout its history, Mount Marty has been guided by leadership which to the founding philosophy of the Mary Magdalen Society embracing all people in Christ. The “general philosophy of the been in Mount Marty — both ti and the college — is to help pe become good Christians,” said laksa. “To be that was the most important thing from the very started the academy. The I. Christian life, the living of the life, that one might say, is what we would like students and our graduates to see as Christians that mattered. An has always been true, and I thin the backs of the minds of the working over there now, just as by Leo
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Academy, later renamed
School, closed in 1969.
Mount Mary's new home has been
Mount Mary's college library

The Mount Marty College Campus as it appears today.

THE HIGH SCHOOL BELL

Through the kindness of Mr. J.J. Welby of this city, the history of the High School Bell has been told to us from the time it left the harbor of St. Louis early in the spring of 1867.

It was first placed on the beautiful steamer "Imperial," which left the port on the 6th of April and steered its journey up the Mississippi River bound for Fort Benton in Montana.
The then bright new bell sent forth its pealing tones telling the people of the city of its departure.

Many times during the journey did the bell ring out, sometimes to warn people of nearby Indians encamped along the bank, and sometimes to call the employees on board to their duties. Thus it kept on all thru' the voyage, faithfully proclaiming the whereabouts of the steamer until it reached its destination.

In November of the same year the capitol turned the steamer southward for the return journey. All went well until Bon Homme island was reached, when winter set in. The river was soon transformed into huge cakes of ice, which made it impossible for the boat to go on, and the captain and the crew were forced to abandon it. They found shelter from the cold north wind in the hospitable ranch home of John Owens, now owned by M.D. Gardner, of Bon Homme county.

The crew, being entirely without funds and demanding their wages, finally attached the boat as a last resort. The "Imperial" was under a heavy mortgage and it was sold by United States marshal, Mr. Litchfield, to Judge Brookes, the Eisenmann Brothers, John Hertert, and Mr. Roseteachen.

The boat was immediately stripped of everything and the contents equally divided among the five purchasers.

The precious bell which had run so joyously on leaving St. Louis bell into the hands of Judge Brookes. In the year of '88 Mr. Welby, who had been deck hand on the "Imperial," was employed by Mr. Brookes, and these two men, together with the help of several other men, placed it on the capitol building which was used by the Congregationalists as their place of worship.

For many years the bell summoned the people of this organization to their services. Many times did it ring out for joy, and many times for sorrow.

But this was not to be the permanent place of the bell. After some years of serving the church it was given to Dr. Ward who had it placed on Yankton Academy. Later Dr. Ward gave it to the city, and it was placed on the high school building, where it was daily heard during the school year.

Many a time when our contestants have gone forth to battle with other contestants, have we anxiously awaited the pealing forth of that precious old bell, proclaiming the victory of our school.

Who has been more faithful than our dear Old High School bell?

The bell now on display at the Dakota Territorial Museum in Yankton.

by a 1913 High School Annual (G.S.)

SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION IN YANKTON COUNTY

An 18 Year Interlude in Public Education

"I'll buy the strawberry pie". And the members of the Yankton County Board of Education went to Kip's for refreshment. During recent years it had become almost a tradition to go for coffee and fresh strawberry pie after their meetings, some of which had lasted long after midnight.

But this day, June 1, 1973, it was different. They had just met in joint session with the Board of County Commissioners. After com-

A new law, House Bill 793, eliminated county boards of education as of July 1, 1973. With all common school districts in South Dakota now joined to independent districts with 12-year programs the problems of school district organization will involve only minor bookkeeping changes or possible consolidation of independent districts, which will be handled by boards of county commissioners.

The activities of the Yankton County Board of Education began with its organization meeting on December 16, 1856. With Miss Elizabeth Kemp, deputy county super-
intendent, as temporary chairman and Mrs. Alma Burke, county superintendent, as per-

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The original legal plan of membership was to have one member from each of the five county commissioner districts plus two members-at-large from anywhere in the county. All school district officers in the county had met and elected the members of this first board. Hereafter, the law provided for election for a four-year term on a non-political ballot at the general fall election. By 1966 county commissioner districts were eliminated so county board members were then all elected at large.

"Charter membership" on the board included La Roy Dahlup, Mission Hill farmer, representing Commissioner District 1; Lou Healy, Irvine farmer, District 2; Morgan T. Smith, Yankton insurance agent, District 3; Dr. R.F. Huber, Yankton physician, District 4; Albert B. Gunderson, Lesterville farmer, District 5; and members-at-large Mrs. Carl (Margaret) Miller, Gayville former teacher, and Mrs. Ernest (Thelma) Gustad, Violin teacher.

La Roy Dahlup was elected chairman of the board and Morgan T. Smith vice chairman. Dahlup was the only member to serve during the entire 18 year life of the board. He served as chairman for 12 years and was again its chairman when the board was dissolved July 1, 1973.

The new chairman was bonded at $1,000.00. Alma Burke, ex-officio secretary, as part of her county superintendent duties, was already bonded. A budget or working fund of $1,050.00 was set. Salaries of the board members were set by law at $8.50 per meeting plus ten cents a mile for travel of members outside Yankton. Despite her extra duties Mrs. Burke received no pay for her many hours as secretary, because the law provided it was a part-time job and she received no pay. Many county superintendents in the state bitterly opposed the whole reorganization setup, not only because of the added duties but also because they realized it would eventually result in their elimination on county supervisor office. Mrs. Burke served faithfully from 1955 to 1971, when the office of county superintendent was abolished because all schools were then under the control of the school superintendent.

From 1971 to 1973 County Auditor Mrs. Parker was the ex-officio duties of board of education secretary. However, she was allowed the same pay as board members, which had been raised to $10.00 a meeting in 1968.

The fine records kept by Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Parker, plus various laws, bulletins, studies, and master plans, are the sources of material for this history.

A board of education without teachers, pupils, or facilities may seem to be a miniscule. However, the chief purpose of the board was to reorganize the school districts so as to provide better education and more efficient use of the tax dollar.

South Dakota had more school districts than ever before in 1959. There were 2,340 districts in 1952. By 1963 the number had been reduced to 200, but 1100 of them operated grade schools. Of the school districts in Yankton County 18 were non-operating. Yet such rural or rural-urban school districts had a school board consisting of a chairman, secretary, and treasurer even if it operated no schools.

The curriculum was inadequate in many schools, including the small towns. Lacking were music, art, physical education, science, math, languages, and vocational courses, such as agriculture, shop, and homemaking. Many town schools had too limited a tax base to afford proper facilities and an enriched curriculum. Many rural schools had enrollments of five or less. So the challenge to the county boards of education was to help reorganize the school districts so as to provide better facilities and curriculum in an efficient manner, yet to consider the wishes of the people in the process.

The board members attended a regional meeting in Parker in January, 1956 at which the state department of public instruction suggested procedures to be used. County maps were purchased and colored to aid board members in analyzing the situation. Many rural districts met with the board to present their problems.

Minimum standards for reorganized districts were proposed by the state department. However, the Yankton County Board did not accept them, feeling they were too long range goals not applicable immediately. For instance, the suggestion that no school should have less than 400 in elementary school and 200 in high school did not seem feasible.

In January, 1956, the board accepted a minimum standards proposal by Dahlup. It included a minimum of 10 pupils and maximum of 25 in a one room school with a maximum of 30 in a multi-school. Cost of operation and debt retirement were not to exceed the total cost of operating all schools when two or more schools closed and combined into one district. Schools were to operate on their own taxes and no bus passenger was to have more than a 45 minute ride to or from school. This standard was more than 50 pupils, unless already a district or county unit.

Over the years meetings were held with state legislatures, with county boards from Clay, Turner, Hitchcock, and Bon Homme Counties, and with independent district boards from Yankton, Tabor, Scotland, Menden, Gayville, Volin, and Irele. Lesterville, Mission Hill, Utica, Walshoton, and other districts were visited by the board. They met at some time with the county board, with as many as 80 people from 10 districts in attendance. On such occasions the board moved from the county superintendent's office to the county court room, where in 1887 they had heard the noise of trucks passing on Highway 81.

Workshops on school reorganization were attended at Yankton, Brookings, Centerville, Hurley, Parker, Lennox, Mitchell, Scotland, and Pierre. The board chartered a plane for the required trip to Pierre, causing criticism until it was approved by John Penne, state comptroller, and shown that it would cost more for the hotel and mileage expenses had they traveled by the old school

Programs on school reorganization were also heard at A.A.I.A. (American Education Association), P.T.A.'s, service clubs, teachers' organizations, and other groups.

Petitive plans for reorganization began to be filed with the county auditor. In 1957 and 1958 the first reorganization action was the combining of Bender School District No. 26 and Schaefer No. 43 to form a new school district No. 28. The County Sent had such petitions as a step in the right direction but encouraged the larger reorganization toward 12 district, which later became required by law.

Changes began to occur in the board. Thelma Gustad resigned in 1959 because of possible time conflicts with her teaching position. She was replaced by Ervin Auch, Lesterville farmer. Albert Gunderson was elected to the state legislature so had to resign since the law provided he could not hold both positions. His place on the board was taken by Morrell Solon, Violin teacher and farmer, who then served as chairman 1969-61. Margaret Miller was vice chairman for the next two years. Dahlup and Smith had held these positions during the first six years of the board's existence.

In April, 1960 Eugene Weidenbach, Lesterville farmer, was appointed to the board replacing Ervin Auch who had resigned, having moved out of the district he represented. Board vacancies during the fiscal year were filled by appointment by the county superintendent. Never during the 18 years the board was in operation was there opposition to a candidate for election at the fall general election. It was hard to get people to run, for only public spirited citizens would circulate the long nominating petitions and wait in the long hours and bear the criticism involved in the job. Neither did the salary of $5.00 prove to be a drawing card. Weidenbach served the remaining 13 years of the board, was chairman one year, and vice chairman five years.

In June, 1960 a 65 page Yankton County School District Reorganization Study was completed by Professors Harry Dykstra and Le Roy Nelson of the University of South Dakota and James Scholler, school district reorganization consultant of the state department of education. The report was read by D. J. Edrich, graduate student (later state superintendent of public instruction), did much of the clerical work.

The study had been contracted by the county board from the South Dakota Education Commission in 1958. It was completed in time to be a required part of the school budget. School enrollments, assessed valuation, indebtedness, curricula, salaries, pupil census, and facilities of all schools were examined. A survey of tuition fees of 500 schools in the area was taken to determine "natural sociological areas." Students listed were those in which they usually had general trade activities (as purchases of food, clothing, machinery), service trade activities (banking, car repair), professional services (law, medicine, dentistry), and social and fraternal activities.

The study suggested a master plan for the county. The south half of the county, District 1, was to have a high school at Yankton with the high schools at Volin and Gayville to be closed. Elementary schools would continue in both towns and in some rural districts. District 2 included the northwest fourth of the county and suggested Scotland in Bon Homme County in the high school attendance center since Lesterville, the only town in the county, could not mix with the high school student in the area were presently attending Scotland School High School. District 3 was to be created by the county and suggested Irele as the high school center. Discussion was had by towns of Volin, Viborg, or Wakonda depending upon the combination into a good district of land from other schools in the area.

In July, 1960, representatives of the Yankton State Hospital and board members from Gundersen District 15 met to discuss the education of all people. The hospital found the county high school facilities inadequate to serve the mental patients of the hospital. As a result of this meeting the hospital was given the use of the building and the facilities of the school district. The building was used as a day school for the children of the hospital and was given the title of Gundersen District 15, a new school district, and included the high school and the district school. The children of the hospital district were also provided for. The hospital board was made of the board of directors of the hospital with three members of the board elected by the patients of the hospital. The hospital was closed in 1965 and the district was dissolved.
Gunderson District 15 met with the board relative to the education of about 18 children of State Hospital employees. District 15 was unable to handle them financially or with physical facilities. Later the pupils attended the Yankton State Schools on an exchange basis. Eventually all this area became a part of Yankton Independent District No. 1.


In May, 1961, Morgan T. Smith resigned since he could do no insurance business with county or school district personnel while a member of the board. He had served six years, four as vice chairman. Glen Backman, head, the educational television committee, of the Yankton College, was appointed to complete Smith's term. He later was reduced three times, serving the final 12 years of the board, as vice chairman.

Backman represented the board the three times as a delegate to the state convention of the Associated School Boards of South Dakota and was state chairman of the educational television committee of the association in 1962 and in 1963. The committee, with the help of executive secretary Gordon Zoeller, worked to get districts to sign up for the networks that the board in the association to assess themselves an additional 50 percent of their per capita membership dues to be used in helping get a survey of interest and needs in South Dakota regarding starting an educational television program. Federal aid for the project could not be obtained unless such a survey showed it was feasible. Backman was in charge of getting in 1962 and 1963 in the school system by this assessment totaled $3207.85. Later the SDREA appropriated $500, and the state A.A.U.W. $150, for the same purpose. The interest thus shown encouraged the state legislature in 1963 to appropriate $7500, and the survey was made. The survey showed great interest and felt need and federal funds to start educational television were granted.

Backman was on the reorganization committee of the Associated School Boards in 1964, which backed Senate Bill 89 requiring all land to be in school districts offering a 12 year program. A provision was included that no elementary rural school in the 12 year district could be closed or merged with another.

Mrs. Marion Mellem, Irene teacher, was elected on the board in July, 1961, and served six years. Retiring from the board and its chairmanship was Morris Solom. Dr. R.F. Husner was elected chairman and served 1961-1967. He then signed after two years of service since his appointment to the State Board of Regents, of which he later was chairman, to make ineligible for county board membership. He was succeeded by James Fitzgibbon, Yankton realtor, who served until 1969.

During the year visits were made to school districts to explain reorganization. Wedenbach reported poor attendance at his meetings. People did not want to give up control of their schools, did not want buses for elementary pupils, and liked to choose the high schools their students were to attend. Miller reported considerable interest with 15-20 attending each meeting. Duhlerup reported cutting costs of education was desired, and that there was a felt need for reorganization.

In October, 1961, L.E. Whiteside and Wayne Cleveland, graduate students at the University of South Dakota were hired to prepare a master plan for Yankton county schools, using data already compiled, making some changes, and adding material. Their rate of pay, $33.33 an hour, was considerably above that of board members, whose $3500 per meeting often amounted to less than $1.00 per hour.

The 60 page plan was submitted to the board in December. Chief difference to the present rule established by the Reorganization Act of 1960 was that Volin was included in District 3 with Irene, rather than in District 1 with Yankton. The plan was accepted by the board and received approval on February 6, 1962, from the State Department of Public Instruction. The plan made clear that rural schools would continue even though included in a 12 year district, as now required by law. The plan was never officially adopted by the voters of the county so it only served as a guide, often with changes, as reorganization progressed.

After many meetings with district representatives reorganization really "got going" in 1964. By unanimous resolution the board on February 25, 1964, annexed to the Irene Independent District No. 77 six districts that had been operated separately for schools for at least the last two years, as the law stated they were required to do. Included were Beebe, No. 29, Rix No. 38, Knodel No. 58, Turkey Valley No. 8, Kjeldsdal No. 69, and Lindbergh No. 76. All of Volin A, except Volin School, with the district boards and three general public meetings, one in Yankton and two in Volin, were allowed to remain. Eleven school boards of Irene presented the statistics of the plan. After discussion a straw vote was taken. A show of hands gave 18 in favor of joining Irene. Only opposition was by seven representatives of Central No. 62 and Oakdale No. 70, who preferred to be joined to Volin, so they were not included in the Irene annexation.

Three months after the annexation an appeal was made to the Yankton County Circuit Court opposing the action of the board in annexing Knodel No. 58 to Irene. Signed by Mrs. Marie Haffeman, Knodel district chairman, and Annie Keeley, elector, the appeal charged "arbitrary, hasty, and tax-exempt" and that the district, the appeal was served on La Hoy Duhlerup, chairman, and James Fitzgerald, board member, on May 28, 1964.

The appeal charged the county board had no right or duty to take action until the people of the district expressed their wishes of the electors of the Knodel district and that the board lacked statutory powers to pass the annexation resolution.

The late Louis B. French represented the county board in the case. He had by examination of records and witnesses that no one from Knodel or any of the other districts annexed had objected to the plan at any of the meetings or by notice to the board at any other time. He also showed that the law authorizes county boards to annex if a district has not operated a school for the preceding two years and that the annexation gave promise of better education for the children of the district. The late Circuit Judge C.C. Buckett ruled in favor of the Yankton County Board, being of the opinion that the board had followed both the letter and the intent of the law.

Then the case was appealed to the South Dakota Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of the plaintiff. Not denying that the wishes of the people had been satisfied as far as could be determined, the court ruled the annexation invalid since the Clay County Board had not signed the directives conveying assets to the Irene district. Since Irene is in three counties, Yankton, Clay, and Turner, the opinion was that all three county boards must act on the annexation, even though all the land and other assets were conveyed in Yankton County.

The situation in the district was that the county boards of Turner and Clay Counties had approved the action in their minutes and by phone calls and correspondence. Later Clay County Board had refused to sign the directives. Clay County Board Secretary, had taken the directions to Parker, where the Turner County board chairman and secretary signed them.

So Knodel District No. 58 was restored as common school district in 1965. Tax money from the Knodel district paid to the Irene district during the past year was returned to the Knodel district, which then had to pay tuition for its students who had attended school in Irene.

Four years later Knodel was annexed, partly to Walshow 22 and part to Irene 77. The two districts were not only adjacent to Irene and partly to Yankton 1. The situation in the district was the adjustment of assets. Four plans were allowed by state law. The most popular plan was called for an "adjustment plan." In this plan all districts transferred all assets and the district after liabilities had been paid over to the board that differed with districts. Plan B called for transfer of fixed assets, such as buildings and equipment, but adjustment of cash assets. Plan C called for adjustment of all assets and Plan D allowed "other equitable methods." Plan A was adopted by the districts added to Irene but they later asked that Plan C be used. All assets were then listed and a formula set up by which the median district in amount of assets was used as the base with those below it in assets paying extra into the new district and those above it getting tax credit. With seven districts combined, including Irene, this meant that three districts paid into the new district and the other four paid for so doing. Liabilities, as for debt retirement of buildings, had to be paid by the district incurring the indebtedness, 10 years being allowed for the debt retirement.

Joseph M. Gayville farmer, was appointed to the board in September, 1965 to take the place of Margaret Miller who did not run for reelection. She had served the first 10 years of the board's life, including two as vice chairman, but resigned since she could not be a farm census enumerator while an active member of any division of government. Bruget served the next two years.

In 1967 three new members joined the board as Bruget, Mellem, and Nielsen did not file nominating petitions for another term. They included Oliver Assen, Volin farmer; Merence Roozen, Gayville farmer; and Clarence Thompson, Volin farmer. All three served six years and until the dissolution of the board in 1973. In 1969 Harlan Hanson, farmer and former Irene coach, was elected

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A master plan for the annexation of the schools at Yankton with at Volin and Gayville to be new schools would continue in d in some rural districts. The study of suggested Scotland in Bon a high school attendance excelsteville, the only town not have a high school. Most other rural school areas were -ing Scotland High School. de the northeast fourth of suggested Irene as the high ce or, perhaps Center

Vakendo depending upon a into a good district of land Turner Counties. representatives of the Yan


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to help districts in emergencies. In June, 1966, the Yankton gymnasium roof was damaged by hail and the county board declared it an emergency so the Yankon board could get it repaired it once without the delay of advertising for bids to do the repair.

In August, 1969, a similar declaration of emergency allowed the Yankton Independent District to lay at once a line for transporting rural pupils now in the district.

In September, 1969, the county board authorized the transfer of $40,000 from the Gayville Independent District No. 80 to the Yankton-Volin Independent District No. 82 since the new district was lacking funds to operate the school pending the completion of directives distributing the assets of the former districts to the new district.

The State Commission on Elementary and Secondary Education was abolished on July 1, 1971, by House Bill 695. County boards were given the responsibility of further reorganization. Since all land was now in 12 districts this involved only minor boundary changes (allowed by petition when less than five per cent of the assessed valuation of the district was involved), and possible combination of independent districts.

In December, 1971, a proposal was made to join Gayville-Volin District No. 82 with Wakonda District 1 (of Clay County) to form West Clay District No. 8. Both Yankton and Clay County boards approved the action. Results of the vote showed Gayville with 63 for and 272 against the proposal. Wakonda voters upheld the proposal 271 to 120. With 354 for and 392 against it, the proposal failed.

On February 3, 1973, 15 years before South Dakota became a state, Yankton Independent School District No. 82 was formed. It joined later during the year by 35 common school districts. During the years Irene, Gayville, and Yankton Independent School Districts were formed as were many common districts bringing the total to 82 districts in the county.

Net results of the county board's actions, now completed 100 years after the first district was formed, are that there are now three independent districts in the county with some common school districts now combined with Scotland, Menno, and Viborg. More important is the fact that every child in Yankton County is now assured free schooling through the 12th grade with better facilities and curriculum than before reorganization took place.

So ends an 18 year interlude in education in Yankton County.

by Glen Bachman

TEACHERS - KATE AND JENNIE STEWART

The Misses Kate and Jennie Stewart, daughters of Thomas S. and Mary Beaumiller Stewart, dedicated their lives for 95 years to the education of pupils in the Yankton Schools.

Kate was graduated with the class of 1888, at which time seven were graduating from Yankton High School.

Jennie Stewart was a graduating member of the 1890 class. Five persons graduated in the 1890 class.

The Yankton Schools had been organized just 26 years before. The first graduating exercises were held for three graduates in 1877.

Jennie Stewart attended and graduated from Madison State Teachers College and taught and served as assistant secondary principal at Parker, South Dakota for two (12) years before returning to Yankton to teach 52 years (from 1892-1944). She served as a class room teacher and then principal at Central School. Math was Miss Jennie's main area of concentration in the classroom.

Miss Kate was principal of Garfield School for 43 years (1892-1936). Geography lived for Miss Stewart's students.

The Stewart won the respect and obedience of their pupils of maintaining their personal integrity.

In 1965 a new grade school was built at 21st. and Cedar and was named in honor of the two Stewart ladies.

Tways Bean Day

I never wake on wash day morn, Without nostalgic sign That living of another day Fashions plainly in my mind. Tways bean day. How wonderfull to wake and hear, Snuggled warmly in my cot, The dim staccato which met the ear, As mother filled the old bean pot On wash day, Significant, disconnected sounds, As the pot received the beans, Conjuring in my youthful mind A meal fit for the king. Tways bean day.

On wash day I still recall the redoubus As mother raised the lid, And filled my plate to brimming, Courting a well-filled kid On bean day Could much delicacy reach its bound, If every child could know A homely mother, standing by Reassuring - as in the long ago, With a bean day?

by Mrs. Runice Siler

(See photo next page.)

SACRED HEA HOSPITAL

It was in November of 1887 Heart Hospital opened its door to the people of southeastern. South Dakota as an Indian school and an Indian hospital.

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Convent opened the hospital, the people of southeastern.

An aerial view of the Sacred Heart C. Nuns home taken in 1946.
Kate and Jennie Stewart, (Sister Jerome) and Mary Braumiller started their lives for 90 years to a half of pupils in the Yankton School. They graduated with the class of 1888, there were seven graduating High School girls. Jennie was a graduating member of the class. Five persons graduated in the schools had been organized before. The first graduating was held for three graduates in 1916.

SACRED HEART HOSPITAL

It was in November of 1897 that Sacred Heart Hospital first opened its doors to serve the people of southeastern South Dakota and northeastern Nebraska. At that time it was a 36 bed facility located in a remodeled building which had been erected a decade earlier as a girls’ academy and subsequently used as an Indian school and an orphanage.

The Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Convent opened the hospital, the first Catholic hospital in the diocese, after being directed to do so by Bishop Thomas O’Gorman, successor to Bishop Martin Marty. Until this venture, the Benedictine Sisters had been primarily trained as teachers, so health care was a new and challenging field for them. The first patient, John McKeilv, was admitted to the “new” Sacred Heart Hospital on November 8, 1897, thus commencing what was to become a tradition of serving the health care needs of the sick and injured of the area.

The Sisters continued to serve from those quarters until, after about a dozen years, it became evident that a larger, more efficient facility was needed. Because they were still insulated from their original facility, the Sisters turned to the community for support, and the community responded with enthusiasm. Ground was broken for a new hospital on October 3, 1912, and the new facility was dedicated by Bishop O’Gorman on May 25, 1913.

The new 80 bed Sacred Heart Hospital became one of the finest health care institutions in the region — a reputation which continues to this day. And, as the years went by, the facility remained a source of community pride for the citizens of this “river city.”

As the needs of the region continued to grow, Sacred Heart Hospital continued to grow, as well. In 1929 a south wing was added to the building. That was followed by a north addition in 1940. The Benet Home for Nurses was erected in 1946, which brought about some major changes in the hospital building itself.

Until Benet Home was constructed, those student nurses who attended the Sacred Heart Hospital School of Nursing had been housed on the fourth floor of the hospital. With their move to Benet Home, the fourth floor beds were freed. This area, which came to be known affectionately simply as “fourth floor”, offered 45 additional beds which were put to use for the care of the elderly.

Still more construction was undertaken in response to the changing needs of the area. An east wing was added to the hospital structure in 1965, and an emergency entrance in 1971.

Finally because of every increasing safety requirements and government regulations, it became evident that a new hospital facility would need to be constructed. The Sisters undertook to meet that challenge with the same enthusiasm which they have always displayed, and the “new” Sacred Heart Hospital was occupied on November 21, 1981.

The new hospital building was erected on land directly north of Benet Home, and is a 144 bed facility. The reduced number of beds reflects the changing face of the health care industry. More and more health care patients are preferring to be treated on an outpatient basis — and today’s advanced procedures and improved systems make such care not only possible but highly desirable. A Same Day Surgery Center located in Sacred Heart Hospital serves over a thousand pa-
patients in a year’s time.
The construction of a new Sacred Heart Hospital freed space in the former building — space which was used to fulfill still another dream of the Benedictine Sisters, which is the expansion of services to the elderly. By this time, the “fourth floor” area of the former Sacred Heart Hospital had officially been named “The Sister James Nursing Home”, in honor of Sister James Souchrad, a Benedictine sister of Sacred Heart Convent who had been caring for the elderly since the 1940’s. It had long been Sister’s desire to move her residents to another area which would allow them more space and accessibility to the outdoors. Sister’s dream was to be realized and in a big way.
Hospital officials received permission from the State Health Department to expand and renovate the first floor of the former hospital building, now known as the Benedictine Center. Just as that remodeling work was getting under way, a unique opportunity presented itself when the license for a local 53 bed intermediate care facility became available. Seeing this as an opportunity to expand their services to the elderly population, hospital officials secured that license. The growth of the Sister James Nursing Home was just beginning.
In August of 1984 the renovation work on first floor of the Benedictine Center was completed, and Bishop Paul Dudley of the Diocese of Sioux Falls dedicated the new unit in a special ceremony attended by more than 600 area individuals. Meanwhile, construction continued on the remodeling of that facility’s second floor. Again, opportunity was just around the corner.
As second floor of the Benedictine Center was being readied for occupancy, another nursing home license in the Yankton community became available, and hospital officials took up the challenge of providing care to an even greater number of elderly individuals. By the time both first and second floors of the Sister James Nursing Home were completed in January of 1986, the facility had grown to 113 skilled and intermediate care beds, making it the largest nursing home in the entire region.
Since 1970 Sacred Heart Hospital has been governed by a 13 member Board of Trustees which includes Benedictine Sisters of Sacred Heart Convent, physicians, and community leaders. In its nearly 100 year history, the hospital has had only seven administrators: Sister Flavia Degelo, 1897-1901; 1915-40; Sister Beatrice Sonderegger, 1901-08; Sister Juliana Graf, 1908-15; Sister Redegund Engel, 1916-54; Sister Roseann Kranz, 1954-69; Ronald Morton, 1969-82; and Dennis Sokol, 1982 to present.
Today, Sacred Heart Hospital is a widely recognized and respected teaching hospital which has made Yankton unique because of the quantity and quality of the medical specialties and staff which exist in such a rural locale. In addition to having its own school of radiologic technology, Sacred Heart Hospital is affiliated with the University of South Dakota School of Medicine and with Mount Marty College’s allied health programs in nursing, anesthesia, medical technology, and respiratory therapy. The hospital has developed a reputation not only for providing excellent patient care, but also for producing skilled physicians, nurses, and other allied health professionals.
Its commitment to the educational process is consistent with its commitment to excellence. In addition to Sacred Heart Hospital’s role as a primary and secondary care facility, a number of specialty programs and services rarely found in a community the size of Yankton are also available. Among those are an Intensive Care Nursery, a blood bank, Home Health Agency, and Emergency Center with 24 hour physician coverage, a Diabetes Center, a Radiology Department offering a full range of services, a Same Day Surgery Center, an Intensive Care Unit, and a Social Services Department. As of this writing, Sacred Heart is anticipating receiving permission from the State Health Department to establish both a rehabilitation unit and a chronic dialysis unit at the facility.
Sacred Heart Hospital, in its nearly 100 years of existence, has positioned itself as a leader in the health care field. Surely the next 100 years will provide the opportunity for still more service to the area as the facility responds to the ever-changing health care needs of those individuals whom it serves.

by Jolene Bucher
SOUTH DAKOTA
HUMAN SERVICES CENTER

A hospital for mentally ill was established in 1878 and called Dakota Hospital for the Insane. Prior to that time patients from the Dakota Territory were housed in Minnesota institutions. In July, 1878, Minnesota notified Governor William A. Howard, the newly appointed governor of Dakota Territory that state could not longer accept any patients from Dakota because of crowding at their institution, and that patients must be removed by October of that year. Five patients were accepted by Nebraska, and Minnesota extended the date for transfer of all others by February 1, 1879. Governor Howard searched in the southeastern part of the territory which was the most heavily settled for an appropriate building but could find none. No law had been passed to authorize the establishment of a hospital, but the Governor stated that in this instance "necessity made the law", and went ahead. Two very large frame structures were found in Yankton which could be made into a suitable temporary hospital at a small cost. These buildings had been erected by the people of Yankton a few years before to accommodate German/Russian immigrants. Governor Howard had them dismantled and moved to a section of land which had been set aside for a school about three miles north of town. They were reconstructed into one building and became the Dakota Hospital for the Insane. Expenses ($2,295.82) were borne by Governor Howard himself, trusting that the next legislature which was to convene in January, 1879, would reimburse him.

Gov. Howard asked the Rev. Joseph Ward who later founded Yankton College, Joseph R. Sanborn, a prominent business man; and Alexander Hughes, a leading lawyer, to serve. They convened at Yankton on March 14, 1879, and appointed J.H. Burdick Steward and J.K. Rainey, M.D., Supervisors. On April 11, 1879, the Hospital opened for reception of patients. There were nine men and eight women, all of whom had been transferred from Nebraska and Minnesota. Dr. Rainey resigned within a month and replaced by Dr. S. B. McGlumphy. His wife was Matron. Their salaries were $63.37 per month and $20.00 respectively.

In January, 1881, the Legislature authorized $40,000 in territorial bonds to construct a substantial building to replace the wooden one which housed not only patients, but employees and kitchen, dining room, storeroom, laundry, and so forth. By December, 1881, the building was completed and finished. Installing plumbing and furnishing was just starting when the original frame building with the loss of the lives of five patients. It took only 30 minutes for the entire building to burn to the ground so nothing was rescued from the building. Seventy patients could be housed in the new building which was rushed to completion.

For the decade of the 1880's the hospital suffered because of the fact that the trustees changed often, and many had political ambition. This lead to inefficiency and instability in administration of the hospital, and the patients suffered as did the employees.

In 1899 Dakota Territory was divided, and South Dakota and North Dakota were admitted to the Union. Officials of the new state of South Dakota decided to place all penal and charitable institutions under one governing board — The Board of Charities and Corrections. With responsibility placed in a board whose members were chosen from all parts of the state, there was less opportunity to use the appointment to further personal ambitions and the hospital was better administered and patient received more adequate care.

After the turn of the century, the attitude of hospital officials toward therapy and treatment changed, and people from Yankton provided entertainment and help with other activities. Annual appropriations increased from $64,000 in 1891 to $191,000 in 1920.

The first decade of the 20th century was one of expansion. Dr. L.C. Mead was Superintendent from 1891-1889 when he went to New York for further study and from 1901 until 1920. Dr. Mead was also an engineer and believed that an environment that was pleasant and attractive was an important therapeutic tool. He also felt that the size should be limited to a definite, planned capacity and that when that level was reached at Yankton, auxiliary regional hospitals would serve the needs of the state better.
additional $64,000 was appropriated for new utilities and appliances, and the counties paid $124,000 for care of patients. Thus the total budget for the 1900 patients was nearly one half million dollars. In 1918 the name was changed from Dakota Hospital for the Insane to the Yankton State Hospital because the original name had a derogatory connotation; other types of patients were also treated — i.e., alcoholics, epileptics, and some retarded. Objectives were extended to the broad healing of all those who resided there as insane.

During World War I, many men were called into the services, and their places were taken by women. The Institution was proud of its patriotism, and over $45,000 was raised for the war effort.

By 1930 the hospital as planned by Dr. Mead was completed. Four buildings had been built since 1911, and the six hospital facilities designed for various types of cases were finally completed. The buildings were Ordway, built in 1915, Kyle built in 1917, and second dairy barn also built in 1917, and a home for the superintendent completed in 1920.

Dr. Mead’s suggestions for a second institution at Watertown were accepted by the state and land purchased. By 1920 construction was well underway. However, Dr. Mead died on January 15, 1920.

Dr. George H. Adams succeeded Dr. Mead. He had served the hospital for nearly nineteen years in various capacities. Much of that time he was assistant superintendent, and during much of the two years of Dr. Mead’s tenure, he had served as acting superintendent.

In 1920 there were 1125 patients and 139 employees, including four physicians, one graduate nurse, 58 other nurses and attendants, and 80 other employees. The number of patients had decreased from the peak week of 1919, the number of patients, and Dr. Adams began an active recruitment effort, especially for medical staff. He said, “An institution of this character should be a hospital in fact as well as in name,” and his efforts were primarily aimed at improving patient services and putting the facilities at the disposal of Dr. Mead that he had planned to the best possible use.

He developed an occupational therapy program with a qualified person to direct it. He also instituted a standardized admission program with a complete psychiatric examination with x-ray and laboratory examinations and a mental examination as well as routine dental examinations. He also believed that environment was important to therapy and began an art collection which was hung in all areas of the hospital.

The post-war depression meant that the Watertown hospital project had to be dropped, and that additional staff at this one could be hired.

With such a large institution the need for maintenance, repair, and upgrading of buildings was continuous. Employees’ quarters were especially in need of improvement. Buildings like the hospital was able to feed itself and had some surplus to sell. The Depression of the 1930s also resulted in serious financial problems for the hospital. During the late 1920s average maintenance costs per patient were $280 per year, and on that figure appropriations were based. In 1932 funds were cut to $280 per patient, and the following year to $10. Appropriations were so severe in 1931 that combined with the depressed economy it caused a severe hard

From a census of 1400 and an appropriation of $500,000, in 1929, Yankton State Hospital went to a population of 1600 and an appropriation of $439,000, in 1934. Recreat

ional activities could be provided, however, and were used to replace some other kinds of therapy.

In 1937 insulin and metrazol shock therapies were introduced and thus began the end of the era of warehousing of mental patients, and the start of the era of active therapy and belief in the likelihood of discharge from the institution. Therapies that were introduced in addition to shock therapy included phychi

s-therapy, special exercises, and massage. Also other discoveries were made — such as pheno- barbitals for epilepsy, antiparkinson, dia- betic and mental illness as malarial treat- ment for neuro-psychosis which was a very common diagnosis in state hospital before these therapies were begun. It is likely that his staff of young physicians were much interested in the new developments in the care of the mentally ill, and the quality of care improved. Although the number of admissions increased for patients the population maintained stable between 1938 and 1940 at 1620.

However, with the outbreak of World War II, the chronic problems of employee turnover became acute. The wages remained low, and the reservoir from which to recruit new employees was largely drained by the draft and the availability of other better paying jobs, so that there was a severe understaffing at the hospital. An investigating committee was appointed to look into complaints from the employees — especially those who worked on the wards. The attendants worked from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily with every 8th day off for almost the same wages as employees in other situations. In one week the hospital lived on the grounds and complained about lack of recreational facilities, about the meals, and inadequate quarters as well as sex discrimination. Physician to patient ration reported to be 1:100 was in the American Association standards were 1:150. To make matters worse Dr. Adams died July 28, 1944, after 44 years as superintendent.

Dr. Frank Haas succeeded Dr. Adams. He had worked at the hospital for 17 years serving the last few years as Dr. Adams’ assistant as well as superintendent. It was a difficult time. There were only three other physicians for 1600 patients, and the rate of employee turnover continued to be appalling. The number of admissions continued to increase although the census remained stable. Shock therapy resulted in improvement of many patients who were discharged. However, there was also a very high rate of readmission since improvement was short-lived.

At this time all surgical and internal medical needs of patients were the responsibility of the physicians at the hospital — this included much laboratory work, other tests and surgical care for physical illnesses. Al- though sulfis drugs and penicillin had been discovered, their use was preempted by the military at the treatment for tuberculosis, syphilis, and other bacterial infections was difficult and often of little benefit. The physicians taught students from several of the colleges and universities in eastern South Dakota.

These many problems led to an “exp

sion” by a Sioux Falls newspaper whose reporter’s first report was biased since interviews were given only to two employees. The reporter did not talk to Dr. Haas at all. This publicity which only made a difficult situation worse, however, did lead to a greater interest in the hospital by the public, the employees presented Governor Miehem with a list of requests for improvements — many of which Dr. Haas had already presented in his biennial reports. In 1950 as a result of this confrontation, the appropriation was nearly doubled to $1,770,576.42 as compared to $702,175.56 in 1946. The medical staff was greatly increased, and a psychologist was also included. There were new buildings also.

Most important was patient care improved. Patients again were given physical, neurolog- ic, and mental status examinations upon admission; past histories and family histories were recorded in as much detail as was possible. This all added up to a review of the history and a diagnosis was required to be completed within 30 days, and plan for therapy was developed.

In 1960 also the legislature passed a law establishing standards for buildings for housing mentally ill patients. These set minimum square footage per patient, window areas, etc.

Dr. Haas resigned in May, 1963, after 26 years of service. He was succeeded by Dr. Charles D. Yoke. Dr. Yoke was a new governor to the state and had a fresh viewpoint and made many changes. At this time the at- titudes toward mental illness began to change, and relatives were becoming more willing to accept patients back and so were communi- ties. Thus the importance of the hospital was so great that some had expected an increase in patient admissions. Dr. Yoke was anxious to make changes and moved too fast and encountered a great deal of resistance. He resigned on November 25, 1970.

Dr. Haas agreed to return as interim superintendent. He served until May 15, 1966, when Cecil G. Baker, M.D., became superintendent. He served strictly as an administrator. He did not intend to be a practicing physician at the hospital. An interdepartmental chapel was also authorized.

During the second half of this decade a vocational rehabilitation program was insti- tuted with the cooperation of other than- eracies. Native Americans were first admitted during the 1960s. However, Dr. Baker became discouraged because of the lack of adequate professional staffing to provide a modern treatment program and resigned at the end of 1969.

Dr. Behan, M.D. followed Dr. Baker in January, 1966, and immediately began enlarging the medical staff. He also encouraged a volunteer service and engaged in a public education effort. He believed that one of the main problems patients required two things: first, medical knowledge with an adequate well-trained staff; and, second, community acceptance and control.

It was during the 1960’s and early 1970’s that the polypharmacology was first intro- duced. Generally called tranquilizers, they have revolutionized the care of the mentally ill. Antidepressants were added in the early 1960’s.

In 1962 50 percent of admissions were alcoholics, and the readmission problems were the same as those of the other diagnostic groups. In fact, number of admissions of elderly increased greatly.

The hospital still faced the same problems in spite of efforts to support for the programs. There were a lack of money and person - turnover rate among employees was so high. There was new hope, however, for new medications made patients a little more amenable to the therapies offered, legislation provided more funds, salaries were increased and other improvements in working conditions were accomplished. Dr. Darrell Radack succeeded Dr. Haas as Superintendent in January, 1970. He was a first non-medical person to hold the position. During Mr. Radack’s tenure, hundreds of patients were treated and many returned to the Medicare or Medicaid as handicapped mentally ill patients.

A new observation ward increased the number of patients by 100. A new wing for elderly patients, 90 residents of that service eligible for payments. Judge James Adan, a federal judge for medical malpractice, has been an elderly patient.

The medical social services were given more attention. Staffing was increased. The staff at the hospital was attended by a medical doctor licensed in psychiatry, a social worker, a registered nurse, a licensed practical nurse. The use of consultants in other fields of medicine, such as Dr. W. C. West, from the Yankton Medical Company, who directed the geriatric ward, has been a great help in dealing with these patients.

The two hospitals in the state have been in close relationship with the medical schools. The hospitals received part of their training at the YHS; the staff received appointments to those hospitals for clinical training in psychiatry.

The medical — surgical service at the Yankton Hospital was provided by the University of South Dakota School of Medicine. The surgical problems were handled by the Medical Center of South Dakota. A Committee on Accreditation (federal and state standards, and the state Board of Medical Examiners The Neuro-Kanner Memorial Building was dedicated at the hospital in 1954 as a pediatrician who moved to the Phelpa Psychiatric Hospital in Minneapolis.
Yankton County's seat of government has long been noted as the home of top-quality medical facilities which have been providing health care for its citizens, as well as those of the surrounding area, for nearly 150 years. Since Sacred Heart Hospital first opened its doors in Yankton in 1857, nurses and physicians have been serving the needs of patients from all walks of life, in all types of situations. Circumstances surrounding each case have always varied, but the doctors' goals have remained the same — to provide the best medical care possible.

Prior to the establishment of hospitals and clinics, mid-19th century doctors hung their shingles and offered their services from private offices. More often than not, the waiting and examination rooms were one in the same — not especially appealing to the more timid patients. But rather than having their patients come into the office, most doctors traveled from home to home. A typical example of a horse and buggy physician was Dr. Dennis Murphy of Yankton. She drove a horse and buggy to make her country calls, often walking to find herself in the barn after her horses had brought her safely home while she dozed through a long night-time ride.

Except for a few rugged outdoormen, few doctors were happy spending long hours in a buggy (or later in an automobile). Consequently, they jumped at the chance to reduce their country mileage by establishing hospitals and clinics, with the idea of drawing their patients to them. In town clinics signaled the end of the romantic era of horse and buggy doctors, but the change did not affect the physicians. Those who chose clinical practice retained the aura of indefatigability, selflessness, and courage of their earlier counterparts.

In 1914, although Yankton already had a hospital, Dr. Silas Matthew Hofh, a surgeon, saw the need for expanded medical services and established the first medical clinic in Yankton County that year on the corner of 8th and Douglas in Yankton.

As one of the most influential figures in the early days of Sacred Heart Hospital and its School of Nursing, Dr. Hofh's goal in opening the clinic was "to attract competent medical men interested in specialization and to raise the standards of the nursing and hospital professions in Yankton." Dr. E.M. Morehouse, internist and obstetrician Dr. F.A. Wood, pathology and X-ray and Dr. Hofh's brother, Dr. J.A. Hofh, an eye, ear, nose and throat specialist joined him in his efforts.

Dr. S.M. Hofh practiced medicine in Yankton for over 50 years. After he died, his clinic continued under the direction of his brother until 1962.

It was 32 years after Dr. Hofh opened his clinic before Yankton County residents saw the establishment of two other health care facilities.
facilities.

Dr. C. B. McVay, a graduate of Yankton College, earned his medical degree from Northwestern University. After serving three years in Europe during World War II, he returned to Yankton, and in association with Dr. F. J. Alba, opened the Yankton Clinic in 1946. First located above the Rexall Drug Store downtown, the Yankton Clinic moved to a brand new building at 400 Park Street, east of Sacred Heart Hospital (now the Benedictine Center), in 1947. The following year, Dr. T. H. Sattler, internal medicine, and Dr. Brooks Ramsey, obstetrics and gynecology, joined Drs. McVay and Alba. Dr. Willis Stangad, pediatrics, and Dr. R. F. Thompson, internal medicine, came to the clinic in 1954 and 1955, respectively.

Yankton’s third clinic, the Medical Clinic, was also established in 1946 by Dr. R. F. Holzer (who earlier had practiced with Dr. George Johnson in a joint office in downtown Yankton). Newberry Building, now the Coast-to-Coast hardware store and Dr. M. A. Auld. They were joined by Dr. Clark Johnson in 1945, Dr. Melford Lysy in 1952, and Dr. D. B. Ramsey in 1956. The Medical Clinic was initially located downtown at 314 Walnut Street. A new building was constructed next to the Montgomery Ward store (now Hatch Furniture) on 3rd Street in 1947. The clinic moved into another new facility at 1104 West 8th Street in 1967 (where the Yankton Medical Clinic is located today).

With two clinics and Sacred Heart Hospi
tal along with its affiliation with the University of South Dakota Medical School in Vermillion, Yankton County was establishing Yankton County Hospital as a major medical center. Its doctors, dedicated to serving the needs of everyone in the region, were closely following the words of Dr. S. M. Hofhe: “The physician belongs to the people, and not to the state as his prestige and practice grow and become established, does he belong to them. His time, day or night, is no longer that of his own or that of his family. It belongs to the public. He is indeed a servant of the people.” By 1950, combined records of the two clinics noted that 75,000 people from a wide geographic area were being treated annually.

Over the years, both clinics continued to expand with new staff members and special services. In order to provide a more comprehensive and complete range of ser
dices for their patients, the Yankton and Medical Clinics merged to form the Yankton Medical Clinic, P.C., in January of 1962.

From the beginning, internal medicine — general examinations and the diagnosis and treatment of diseases — has been the major service provided by all of the doctors in Yankton. Early day medicine, however, was sometimes a mixture of “by guess and by golly.” When a physician was called upon, he performed the treatment he believed was re
commended. They may have included mass doses of calomel (a favorite cathartic of the era), a solution of tartar emetic to induce vomiting and perspiration) or blood letting. Other popular remedies included sedatives, narcotics, and alcohol or whisky. If surgery was required, the doctors often found themselves in less than ideal conditions, in a room with little or no light. Operations were performed under trees, in carpenter shops, on wagon beds, kitchen or billiard tables, or in basements.

The establishment of clinics and hospitals offered substantially better conditions in technology and sanitation. The X-ray, inven
ted in 1895, was routinely used in many clinics after the turn of the century. More research on germs and their relation to the cause of disease spurred more advancements in health care as did vast improvements in medical training.

The practice of internal medicine today is a far cry from that of the early days. Specialization is the key word. While the main goal in diagnosis and treatment, no matter what the patient’s problem, more and more doctors are working with a certain field of study. Internal medicine at the Yankton Clinic now includes sub-specialties with names that challenge the alphabet for length — endocrinology (glandular disorders), hematology (blood diseases), oncology (tumor), nephrology (kidney diseases), peripheral vascular diseases (diseases of blood vessels), and rheumatology (arthritis and related diseases) are among them. The diagnosis and treatment of diabetes is also included.

When there was only one or two doctors in a clinic and very little specialization, what we now know as family practice was all but impossible. It’s now a major focus of the clinic. Family practice includes the initial and continuing health care for patients of all ages, evaluating their total health needs, providing personal medical care and referring them to other appropriate sources of care when indicated. Small staffs and large patient load often prevented such comprehensive care in the early days of medicine in Yankton.

Before hospitals and clinics were established, women were usually left to their own resources for gynecology and obstetrics. Mothers helped their daughters through pregnancies, often with practices handed down to them from their mothers. Many babies were delivered at home, even well into the mid-1900s. In the 19th century, doctors were sometimes called in for assistance, or midwives helped with births. Although pregnan
cy was commonly discussed, the delicate subject of anything else relating to the female reproductive organs was usually kept private. But that was in the early days. The clinics in Yankton have always offered complete ob
tertrial care. Gynecology is another special
cized health care service provided by the Yankton Medical Clinic.

The facility also offers; general surgery, the surgical treatment of diseases and injuries; orthopedics, the surgical and nonsurgical care of diseases and injuries involving bones, joints, tendons, muscles, and nerves; ophthal
mology, the surgical and medical care of diseases of the eyes; ophthalmology, the surgical and medical care of diseases of infants and children; occupational medicine, a service to employers and their employees for injuries or diseases related to the job, including physical examinations, disability evaluation, and other occupational health services; psycho
cology, the counseling and therapy of mental disorders; dermatology, prenatal and post
delivery care, resuscitation classes; diet and diabetic counseling and participation in numerous other health screening and health education programs.

A clinical laboratory at the Yankton Medi

cal Clinic provides the facilities and equip
tment to perform virtually all of the tests needed by the clinic’s patients. Tests include urinalysis and blood tests, bacteriological studies, allergy testing, cytology smears and a vast number of biochemical determina
tions. X-ray units are also located in the clinic, and a physical therapy department works with patients to rehabilitate diseased and injured muscles through diathermy, exercise, ultrasound, and heat treatments. A private registered pharmacist leases space from the Yankton Medical Clinic to provide prescriptions for patients who choose to shop there.

Through the years, the clinic has had an association with the USD School of Medicine, housing residencies in surgery, obstetrics, medicine, and gynecology. Technological advancements, as well as the addition of specialized practice, have always been fore
most in the clinic’s objective of serving its patients with the best medical care possible. Change and improvements in its service have always been important.

Moving into the future, the Yankton Medical Clinic anticipates expansion in regional medical care. Although it does not have the capability of providing all the services available in larger medical institu
tions, it will be able to meet the needs of its patients at the primary and secondary health care levels. As health care all over the country faces a multitude of changes, the Yankton Medical Clinic looks upon the changes as a
t opportunity to improve its services to provide quality care to people in Yankton and the surrounding area.

by Jill Karolewitz
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ATHLETICS

by Jill Karolevitz

Yankton Pathfinders of Meridian Road starting out of Yankton.
PEARSON CITY BALL TEAM
T169

One of the best country ball teams was known as the "Farmer's Union Team". Sanford Erickson organized them in 1928 till 1930. They played teams from Midway, South Dakota, Mayfield, Irene, Hurley, Marion, Edelwilde. In 1931 Henry Eide started a gas station on the location that is known as "Gene's Place". Carl Pearson purchased and expanded it, and ball was played at their pasture. In 1932 the team moved to John Johnson's pasture, north of Pearson's Store. They played soft ball there until 1934. Then Sanford organized a baseball team at the store in Yankton County. That was probably the first officially named Pearson Ball Team. They played Sunday baseball at the store from 1934 till 1942.
Possibly World War II interrupted ball playing. In 1941 Sanford started a married men's softball team and a girls' team. They were using Jesse Doering's pasture as their home diamond. The men played ball at the State Hospital of Yankton, South Dakota, and at the State Penitentiary of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For their transportation the players rode in Hodger Olsen's stock truck.
In 1956 Sanford Erickson organized a boys' team, ages 10-16. In 1958 Harland P. Daniel- sen started coaching the boys. Sanford still enjoyed very much coaching the girls' team. That same year Pearson City played in the Freeman League with the North and South Stars, the North and South Flans, and others. In 1966 Pearson City won the league play, being undefeated. Robert Lee pitched a no-hitter against the No. 1 team. That same year Pearson City traveled to Salem, South Dako- ta, in a rain storm. They played the Center Soft Ball team, a church sponsored youth group, in mud. Pearson City won - 39 to 9!
The Pearson City Teen-age Softball Team were winners of the Sportsmanship trophy in Eastern South Dakota in 1963. They were sponsored by the Viborg Co-op Elevator - GTA - of Viborg, South Dakota. They placed 3rd in the State Tournament at Sioux Falls. Harland C. Danielsen pitched every game in the tournament. Gene Danielsen made an unassisted triple play. Sharlen Danielsen kept score for many games.
In 1965 managers from various communities organized the Tri-County League; Yankton, Turner and Clay Counties. The last league game played at Jesse Doering's pasture was in 1966. Pearson City then played their home games in Viborg. They played teams from Gayville, Volin, Irene, Wakonda, Mayfield, Midway, Centerville, Vermillion, Burke, Elk Point, Hurley, Utica, Viborg, etc.
Robert Lee started managing Pearson City's softball team in 1975. That year they won the championship trophy and won again in 1976. Jim Eli and Scott Nielsen have managed the Pearson City teams. On a stormy, rainy, Sunday evening, April 30, 1984, Pearson City's Ball Club sponsored a barbecue supper, held at Gene and Kathy Larsen's place. At that very special occasion Gary R. Larsen was master of ceremonies. Harland P. Danielsen and Robert Lee were presented with appreciation plaques for their years of coaching and managing the Pearson City Softball Team - in memory of Sanford Erickson. He died June 16, 1966. His wife, Ida Erickson, died August 3, 1976.
Generations of Larsen's, Eids, Christensen's, Lee's, Jensen's, Danielsehn's, Anden- sen's, Johnsen's, to name a few, have been good ball players. Good times! Happy times! Fun times! Faithful fans, friends, and memories...

by Gary R. Larsen and Geneva Danielsen

DO YOU REMEMBER THE "PLEASANT VALLEY SLUGGERS"?
T170

This ball team composed of young men in the community. They had quite a lively team going for seven years during the 1900's. Most every Sunday during the summer they played ball at their home diamond which was in the Albert Gustad pasture just south of the buildings. If not there, they were probably at the diamond of another team. There were others that played with them at various times not on the picture; Floyd Gustad, Ollie Kyldelworth, Howard Bultstad, and Chester Lien.
Other teams at that time were Mission Hill, Martin Gosevitch's Aggregation, Bernard Our- skand's Oakland Vikings, Jamestown, Hansen, Walhalla, and Martinlhill. I know that they played most of these teams, possibly all of them. Also know they had exchange games with a team from St. Helena, Nebraska.

by Anna L. Gustad
(See photo next page.)
1 City Teen-age Softball Team of the Sportsmanship trophy in the Dakota in 1963. They were the Viborg Co-op Elevator song, South Dakota. They placed 4th at Tourney at Sioux Falls. To Jim Schenck every game in sent. Gene Danienlsen made an big play. Shattered Danienlsen in many games. Danienlsen from various communities in the Tri-County League: Yank- and Clay Counties. The last played at Jesse Dewing's pas- 1966. Pearson City then played games in Viborg. They played in Yankton, Vonut, Irwin, Wakonda, Bigloda, Centerville, Vermillion, and Hurley, Ulca, Viborg. pear started managing Pearson City team in 1973. That year the softball trophy and won again a Eli and Scott Nielsen have a Pearson City teams. On a rainy Sunday evening, April 28, 1974; firefighters sponsored a pie sale, held at Gene and Kathy Wilkerson. At that very special occasion son was master of ceremonies. Danienlsen and Robert Lee were awarded appreciation plaques for their 20 years of service in the community. They died June 16, 1966. His wife, Ida had August 3, 1976. As of Larson's, Dill's, Christiansen's, Danienlsen's, Anderson's, to name a few, have been gone. Good times! Happy times! al useful fans, friends, and memo-

Larry R. Larsen and Geneva Danienlsen

DO YOU REMEMBER THE "PLEASANT VALLEY SLUGGERS"?

early December, 1984, when it became known that Yankton College was indeed finished as a viable entity in the world of higher education.

Dead in fact, but alive forever in the minds and hearts of her children - among them the proud weavers of the Black and Gold, the coveted "Y" - her athletic heroes.

It was in 1889 that the "Athletic" Club, a group of young men who regularly met in the basement of the old conservatory for the express purpose of physical training, (taking care of the old boy, you know!), decided that a football game between their group and a club from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion would be in order. A game was arranged and was played in Vermillion; the

Carl Youngworth and "Smoky" Joe Mendel truck star.

YANKTON COLLEGE
GREYHOUNDS

This is the story of an era - a segment of time spanning nearly a hundred years, a long time as humans reckon time - a second in the history of the universe.

It is at once a history, a factual presenta-
tion of happenings that occurred, of men who came, of a saga with dreams, love, spirit, team play, loyalty, effort, talent, tradition, and economics woven throughout it. It is a story of grass roots simplicity, of belief in God, of self, of country - a tale of innocence, a tale of success, and eventual failure because of ignorance.

It is the story of the Yankton College Greyhounds, a band of men who will always be brothers in bond - the bond of love for an institution and for the lofty ideals they were taught there. The cynics of today will snicker at the naive, the Frank Merriwell trust of the story - but it is a true story, one with a sad ending but one with much joy and hope in the many years prior to that black day in

Crane-Youngworth Football Field.

Lyle Alonso, taken in the spring of 1979.
University taking an 11-0 decision in one of the earliest, if not the earliest, football games on record in the state.

The students are dim for a couple of years, although there apparently was some activity, but in 1894, under the direction of a man destined to become famous in another field, newspaper cartoon pundit-be J.N. "Ding" Darling led his Yankton College teams to a pair of wins over USD.

One of the college's premier families provided the next leader as Donald B. Ward, son of the institution's founder, led the team in 1909, winning one and tying one with USD.

In '97 the first game of what was to become a great rivalry took place in Yankton, as YC demolished Dakota Wesleyan 40-12. That was about the time that the team began to take on all comers, and in 1909, South Dakota State College, the Sioux City Medical

School, Sioux City High School appeared on the schedule.

The college at that time hired The duty–elect team captain coach's chores.

A landmark in the history College athletics took place in New York philanthropist, donated enough money so that established institution could athletic facilities. Crane Gymnasium, a prominent YMCA gym, complete with gymnastic equip and a running track (32 laps to 1 building eventually housed basketball teams, too.

Across the street, Crane Field and football, complete with track was set. Yankton College athletics were on their own campus. The old stand across what is now 12th Street, in all of its majesty until it was make room for the present con in the mid-'70s.

This was the same time that College hired their first paid coaches had to cough up half of taught physical training and college teams, for which he paid sums of $775, $875 from VC and from members of the teams.

Among the athletes coach Griffith was a young man Treadway, who later became state's busiest and most prominent officials. Treadway settled it founded one of the state's first companies.

The next YC coach of note was a gentleman by the name of McClay. McClay, for example, would help build school started one, much to the liking of students, but an idea not taken by the powerful Victorian beau
School, Sioux City High School, and others appeared on the schedule. The college at that time hired no coaches. The duly-elected team captain performed the coach's chores.

A landmark in the history of Yankton College athletics took place in 1905, when a New York philanthropist, James Crane, donated enough money so that the now-established institution could erect its own athletic facilities. Crane Gymnasium met the specs of the popular YMCA gyms of that day, complete with gymnastic equipment, weights and a running track (92 laps to the mile). This building eventually housed the first YC basketball teams, too.

Across the street, Crane Field for baseball and football, complete with a grandstand, was built. A track was set in place and Yankton College athletics were at home on their own campus. The old stadium jutted out across what is now 12th street, and it sat there in all of its majesty until it was destroyed to make room for the present concrete stadium in the mid '20s.

This was the same time that Yankton College hired their first paid coach, and the players had to cough up half of their salary. He taught physical training and coached the college teams, for which he played the grand sum of $750, $775 from YC and the other $775 from members of the teams.

Among the athletes coached by John L. Griffith was a young man named Roy Treadway, who later became one of the state's busiest and most trusted athletic officials. Treadway settled in Huron and founded one of the state's first sporting goods companies.

The next YC coach of note was an enterprising gentleman by the name of Charles H. McClay. McClay, for example, thought a band would help build school spirit, so he started one, much to the liking of the young students, but an idea not taken to very kindly by the powerful Victorian head of the music department, Professor Dailey.

Another McClay ploy — when he had a problem getting the boys to run on the cross country team, he got the girls to ride their bicycles along, and the boys ran. The turnout for the sport doubled. J.A. Roberts took over in 1908, taking Yankton to an official state collegiate championship, and coaches named Umbarger, Bush, and Kerr were at the helm until 1914. In 1914 Bill Claberry was drafted to coach at Yankton College, which he did for a year.

1915 is a red-letter year in YC sports annals, not because of the football or basketball teams, for it was a bad year on the worst record under the direction of a Grinnell graduate, Vic Tharp, who knew little football, but because it marked the beginning of an association that was to last seventy years.

Carl Youngworth, a Tyndall lad, entered Yankton College. He was to play baseball, but they dropped the sport that year, but his talent, intelligence, and natural leadership abilities soon made him a participant in all sports, although World War I was just around the corner.

Carl Youngworth's arrival on the Yankton College campus in the dark days before World War I was auspicious. He was a baseball player from Tyndall, and YC dropped the baseball program just after his appearance. However, he competed in football, basketball, and track in spite of his small stature (5'7, 130 lbs.) His career was interrupted in 1917 by service in the Army, not only by Youngworth, but by coach Montgomery and many of the YC student-athletes of the day.

Youngworth resumed his college activities after less than a year in the army, made him eligible for a degree in 1919.

It was during Youngworth's college days that the name "Greyhounds" was attached forever to the Yankton athletic teams. A former athletic star at the school, Bert Feenstra, then coaching in the St. Louis area, came up with the suggestion that was adopted — it was a natural, with the team colors grey and yellow and the suggestion of speed in the Greyhound name, and caught on quickly.

In 1919, with Youngworth at the controls at quarterback and big LeRoy Kenney carring the ball, the Greyhounds finished at 4-0-1, the best part of their games until Kenney was injured in the final game.

Youngworth went to Winona to coach in Winona High School in 1921, even though he had just about decided not to teach as a career.

In 1924, Youngworth was successful in luring several of the local stars to Yankton College, and an upswing in athletic fortunes followed. Cliff Steinbach, Guy Warden, Bob Reddy, Rookie Jenkins, and Clarence Weiger were high school standouts who became Greyhounds. In the next two decades, Greyhound success became the rule, not the exception, and in all sports.

In 1928, still fed in part by the Yankton High School team, the Greyhounds were outstanding in basketball. Led by the great Elmer Mackey and bolstered by the return from a ring at the big time by Swatz Warden, the Yankton College team led the pack in the newly organized SDIC.

When Joe Mendel arrived on the Yankton College scene in 1937, coach Carl Youngworth already had the Flame going under the Greyhound teams. Football fortunes were up after a lean year or two, and the YC basketball teams were the scourge of the South Dakota Intercollegiate Conference. Those Greyhounds were good.

Great Yankton College names like Lyle Rick, Jack Wilson, Maurice White, Niel and John Batchelder, Harry Coates, George Bauer, Ben Vaider, and so many others made the YC backers proud.

In basketball, fortunes were more varied, but players like Elmer Mackey, Nick Dehn, Guy Warden, LeRoy Kerr, Marvin Strube, Van Clarence, Corrling, Jones, and Shear gave Youngworth a better-than-average record.

In track, nearly complete Greyhound domination was near in the late 30's. The Greyhounds were second in the conference to the strong Columbus College teams in 1938 and 29, but Youngworth gathered an awesome group of track stars and started a string of ten straight SDIC track and field championships in 1939. Led by the example of "Smoky Joe" Mendel, Yankton gained national recognition on the track. After his graduation in 1931, Mendel's strict Mennonite upbringing and work ethic came into play. It is still said in some circles that Joe could have been an Olympic star in 1932.

But there were others beside Mendel on the YC campus in those days, and Mendel would be the first to acknowledge that fact.

In 1933 Jimmy Kendall and Vic Sinclair made their appearances on the hill, along with a strapping young man from Freeman, Arnold Preehim. In another era, Preehim would have been an outstanding decathlon star. In 1953 at the SDIC meet, the Redbirds won six events and placed in all six of them, the shot put, discus, javelin, broad jump, pole vault, and high jump, leading the Hounds to their third straight conference title.

In 1934 more stars enrolled at Yankton College. Jimmy Kendall was the leading middle-distance runner, and Sinclair had become the area's best miler. John Zitz, Fred Gross, Hank Hilday, Paul Barber, Leon
Rustad, and Woody Greeno were all champi-
onship caliber athletes. A small, skinny runner also added to the Greyhound lustre in those days when Rollie Pricichard, who had been out of school for a number of years, arrived on the scene, and added another national crown to the Greyhound story with a victory in the National AAU ten-mile run.

In 1966 came another bonanza in the persons of two great athletes, Bob Putnam of Jettysburg, who had nearly duplicated Joe Mendel’s single-handed state meet in the state high school meet in 1934, and a local runner, Ralph Hall, an entirely dedicated young man whose endurance was fabulous.

But Putnam was an all-around athlete, a great competitor who ran the high hurdles with courage and enthusiasm in addition to the dashes. Halla became another national-class runner. It was normal for him to run-and-win the half mile, mile, and two-mile races during one afternoon meet. He won the 3,000 meter run at the Texas Relays in 1966, was a close second in the Drake Relays two-mile, and nearly defeated Indiana University’s great Don Lash in a special mile-and-a-half race at Naperville, Illinois that year.

Another all-around athlete shown in 1968 when Morgan T. Smith came from Kingsport, Tennessee. Former Greyhound star Lyle Rich had been his high school coach and had gotten him to attend YC. The rugged, speedy Southerner was an immediate sensation on the football field and showed that he knew his way on the track that next spring, too.

Smith had some able teammates, to say the least. Athletes like Steve Girrier, Putnam, Steve O’pland, Ralph Gouvenard, Gene Whitehill, Russ Harte, Bobby Gentry was hired to relay Carl Younghorst of some of his coaching cues, and he took the football team. Younghorst his basketball and track coaching duties, helped in football, and was the athletic director.

In 1940, the church schools of the SDIC, Yankton, Huron, Dakota Wesleyan, Sioux Falls, and Augustana left the SDIC and formed the Dakota Conference, which was short lived and was folded into the NAIA after the next year. Younghorst and his cohorts were active in recruiting athletes and got some outstanding Yankton College athletes whom they brought to Yankton College to play.

They provided a new spark and a new spirit to Yankton College, and things were on the upswing, again.

When Doug Cowman came into the YC program in 1972, he had been directly from lifting the Canisius High School basketball to the heavy heads of the Class B basketball championship of South Dakota, it marked the end of a long regime. Carl Younghorst, who had served as the school basketball administrate at the time, resigned from his long-time post of athletic director, and Cowman was his successor. Youngworth kept the track team under his jurisdiction, but left a legacy as the head of an athletic department that is absolutely unique. He never had a dime on the Yankton College budget for athletics. From the time he took over in 1972 until he was up the reins 20 years later, his department was self-supporting.

Doug Cowman infused an enthusiasm to the Greyhounds that was a real attribute. They took on the newly formed Tri-State Conference and became top contenders in every sport. The football program got a start from Virgil Brandt, but then got a real shot of enthusiasm from Vern McKenzie when he arrived from high school coaching in Ipswich. They inherited some key athletes and did a good job of recruiting. And they won — perhaps the most important talking point that a coach has in bringing a new student-athlete into the fold.

In basketball, Cowman had immediate success with athletes like Harley Zepher, Phil Knaps, Marion Bink, Ron Poppae, and a freshman from Mitchell who had been overlooked by Dakota Wesleyan, Gary Schuster. This team became the best in the new league, and the Hounds stayed in the top echelon. All-state selection shooting Ron Bercht came on from St. Lawrence; Dave Armstead, from Chicago; Percy Stalow, from Iowa; Bill Spears, a junior college standout from Coffeyville, Kansas; they brought Yankton College the first District 12 championship and they got a part in the 1963 NAIA National tournament in Kansas City.

In football, the success was more gradual, and the next few seasons saw noteworthy success and a succession of coaches. McKenzie left in 1963 and was replaced by Ron Blazock, who had a championship team before he left two years later.

Bobby Noblit took over for a year before he was replaced by Pat Daub, who took over at Washburn University.

On the football front, Don Birmingham started an era. He came off the staff of the Greyhounds’ arch-enemy, Westminster College, and got the team in shape. A large number of athletes and a successful football program were the result, and the Hounds qualified for the 1977 NAIA National tournament in Kansas City.

The most famous, of course, was Lyle Alndo, who stumbled onto Yankton College after taking a stab at New Mexico University, who decided they didn’t want him. Alndo, looking for a place to hang his hat, came to YC because he had a couple of Brooklyn scouts in his corner. He hit the field, and the coaches saw pure gold raw material, and they merged.

A couple of years prior to Alndo’s arrival, another young man of great stature arrived on the scene who had a local coach who knew of coach Younghorst’s talent for getting a young man to reach his potential. The young man became the all-time best hurdler in South Dakota collegiate history, the one who liked what he saw, and later won the world-class hurdle star, just missing an Olympic berth. His name was Tommy White, and he was the most formidable track and field star in the district for much has already been said of the two athletic stars, Alndo and White, of the excellence in trampl media coverage of sports, still are, national celebrities, of the vast television coverage, Football League, and his later media attention, as well as football ability, has made him a most loved fan as a genuine celebrity.

White, a quieter man, he shares of accolades on the international scenes. He is a University of California PhD, one in physical education in clinical psychology, and in sports of track and field, one world over.

Don Birmingham left after and Bill Robin took over for some outstanding years. South Dakota’s sportswriter Greyhound school team of the Year in 1977.

Goodman had a great year I rejoined his Kansas State and I was still running the Hounds another T.

The women got into the act; Marty Wood put together a basketball program that was successful.

A year-fatal happening in 1972 the Hounds away at that time decided to chase professor Noack took over. He took thirty candidates for the 1977 "no more football for YC”-schedule and the team. A YC coach had been in no man’s land, back together again, and the Grey- hounds back but never entirely got over that.

John Ridhomen had come to "basketball career at South Da" he continued the fine were with outstanding teams from TIDT came in for a year in 1971 Thorson took over, and he was basketball coach and the at the first year last December playing a schedule with an out team.

Thorson had fought the Greyhounds had gotten the Greyhounds SDIC after his year the.

On the gridiron, Pete Cla hows after Chevrolet left in 1975 Greyhound teams and good as the coach, Thorson took over, and he had the coach who was in a great shape, and the Greyhounds of the Greyhounds; Deserves mention, but this isn’t the place.

But each of them, in his own way, has put his own stamp on the other students who attended Perhaps the founders had hoped their efforts would be sent into the world from the nothing but the highest credit on their alma mater Yank-
YANKTON PUBLIC SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Yankton High School athletic teams have become the envy of the other schools in South Dakota, but it wasn't always an easy task to become that successful.

In the early days of this century, the students were excited about getting involved with interscholastic competition, but that wasn't the attitude of the school board and the administration. It took much urging on the part of the students and their parents, along with a few interested citizens of the community to finally make the dream of the would-be athletes a reality.

In 1902 an incident came to light to illustrate the attitude. A group of young men in the high school decided, in spite of opposition from the administration, to skip a day of school and travel to Canton, where a group of their students were waiting to play a football game—a challenge, as it were. Upon their return, the team was called to account for their actions, and were told that they could not return to school unless they would agree to sign a statement that they would never again play football, unless the superintendent made the contract to play.

There was constant pressure on the board to hire a coach and to provide facilities, not only for football, but for a well-rounded program, including baseball. There was also some pressure on the other side. Finally, in the days just before World War I, there were people hired to supervise athletics. One of the first to be retained was William Carberry, who also was a teacher and was a Yankton College coach. Carberry went on to make a name for himself in the coaching ranks and is a member of the South Dakota Sports Hall of Fame.

The YHS students from then on were on the sports scene in the area— but success on a state-wide scope didn't come for a few years. In 1920 Clem Letteich came to town, and he soon put the Yankton High School basketball team on the map. South Dakota, some six or seven years before, had begun a state basketball tournament under the direction of a newly created state association. From 1922-1925 the Bucks rooted the crowds, winning an unprecedented and never again equaled four straight state titles. In those days there was a national high school tournament in Chicago, and the Bucks were regular entrants, gaining the finals in the 1924 tournament before losing to a team from Colorado. Team members, included John McDonough, Guy Wardlen, Rob Roy McGreg, John Falk, Brooke Jenkins, Clarence Weiger, Randall Jacobson, and Al Lettich.

It was during this era that the Yankton High School team was named. After considerable debate and discussion, it was decided that the name 'Bucks' be adopted, referring to the male deer, with its legendary speed and stamina.

The fortunes of the Yankton High teams fell off for a couple of years after Lettich had taken the coaching reins at the University of North Dakota, but in 1927 another winner appeared. A dapper, young Nebraskan, Warren W. Stephenson, came to Yankton in that year. Within another year he had the Bucks again at the top. They won basketball championships in 1928, 1929 and 1930, and...
were unofficial football champions, and had
some outstanding track stars. Such all-state
couples as Ray Hamman, Floyd Andy
Schek, Stanley 'Gamer' Smith, and Donald
'Dit' Smith became household
titles throughout the area because of the use
of radio. WNAX was one of the Upper
Midwest's most important radio
stations, and their manager, Foy von
Forney, later a US
Senator broadcast Yankton Bucks games for the
enjoyment of listeners all over, and the
'Bucks' became very well known. This team,
too, while members of the high school team, made
the scene at one national tournament before they discontinued the event.

Other athletes contributed to the Bucks' success during those years included Harry
and Chet Binder, Les Rudd, Maurice White, Harry Costes, Gib Livingston, and many
others.

Stephenson stayed in Yankton until 1936 and had more success in football than in
basketball in his last years here. In 1937 a young Dakota Wesleyan graduate moved to
town and took over. Lorne Arnold started the
road back to respectability.

World War II stepped to slow activity
for a while, but the Bucks became
known as a high school football power with
dual state as Rawlings, Lynch, Harvey
Sherman, Darrell Clark, and others.

The road to the top was started in 1947, when an energetic young man from Sioux City, a parade veteran of the great war,
was hired to direct the Yankton Bucks.
Without a great deal of nobs, but with
a great deal of native intelligence and a bundle of
energy and enthusiasm, Bob Burns made
winners of the Bucks again. He was here for
only two years, but his legacy of winning
would remain for years. After his
Dwayne Cloffelter, who was to take USD
to a national basketball title in 1956, then
by Lars Ovremark, a dedicated and talented
teacher, who turned a young, winless team in 1957 into a giant of a club.

In 1956 Max Hawk took over as football coach. Hawk had been
a standout football player in Yankton history and had more success. Hawk has
guided the Yankton football team through twenty years at this writing and has counted
13 EDS titles and two official state
championships to his side. He is a real profes-
sional, serving as executive secretary of the
state coaches association for over 15 years
and has been a national coaches association
spokesman, serving as president in 1980. Under
Robert Sorensen, the Yankton Bucks
were a major force in state basketball
classification and had many all-state
honors and have high school
all-Americans, Paul Treiman and Jay Sobler.

In 1966, two more state titles have
been added since the domination of the
1950's, in basketball by Bob Winter, and in
football under John Khetre. One outstanding player
featured the teams, a 6-foot 11 Chad
Nelson was a four-time all-stater and was highly
recruited for college basketball.

Yankton High School's new high school
campus graduated a number of student-athletes
that went on to sports glory at major universities. The previously-mentioned Ray Hamman was

a basketball star at the University of Wiscon-
sin during his collegiate days. Two former
Bucks, Shorty Fitzgerald and Richard An-
derson, served their Big Ten football teams
at the University of Chicago and the Univer-
sity of Iowa, respectively, as football captains
in the same year, 1936. Bobby Stranksky, a
1964 grad was an All-American football player
at the University of Colorado. Harry Costes
was on the football team at Minnesota, and
Bill Whalder starred as an end on some fine
Iowa teams, then headed to Canada, and was
one of the Canadian League's best for a
decade. Emil Waich played for the Air Force
Academy's first teams, and Marlin Logan
played for the Navy while Tom Brewer
was the center for the Army team when he was
a cadet. Tom Weber played for the strong
University of Nebraska Cornhuskers as a

flake. These were only a few of the student-
athletes that played major college sports, all
of them profiting from a fine background at
YHS.

In the 1960's a new dimension was added. Girls' athletics were mandated by the federal
government and were accepted with open
arms by Yankton girls and Yankton fans. Former
Buck coach, Bob Winter, agreed to
handle girls' basketball and immediately
reached for and attained - the top. His
'Gazelles' as they were called, won the first
'girls' basketball championship played in
South Dakota, and went on to take five of the
first ten state girls' titles, and they were
second in two others.
The track and field
stars were about as successful. With Jim
Miner as the coach the Gazelles won three
state championships and were a factor in all of
the first ten state meets held.
The girls, too, had outstanding individuals;
Dawn Neufeld, with her son, Keith, and
Barbara Barnes, Diane and Gayle Hiemstra, Linda
VanGoor, Mary Binder, and Sarah Robinson
were just a few of the Gazelles stars.
All in all, athletics at Yankton High School,
where character, hard work, and proper
discipline are given full time, have been an important contributor to the
efficacy of the school system. The teams have been a source of school and
community pride and have been an anchor to
help buoy the school through the tough times.

In Yankton, athletics truly are 'The second
half of education'.

The sports curriculum over the years has
had some changes. The administration has
added wrestling, gymnastics, cross country,
girls and boys golf and tennis, and are
contemplating volleyball.

The Yankton athletes have had success in
most of them. In golf, for example, Norm
West's boys team won the state championship
for three years in a row from 1982-84 and were a strong runnerup in 1965, with
high hopes for continued success.

by "Hod" Nielsen

YANKTON TERRYS

When asked by Mr. Don Binder to write my
memories of the Yankton Terrys baseball
team, I was a little apprehensive and
nervous, not so much at sharing my memories, but realizing that I would not dare
forget to mention many players and persons who made
the Terrys the successful team they were. I
assure you that no person has been intentionally
omitted and hope those people will forgive my
oversights and memory. With that apology and understanding, let's go back
through memory lane and some of my
recollections of those wonderful Yankton
Terrys.

One, two, three strikes you're out! That call was heard by many baseball fans as they
attended the games of the Yankton Terrys.
Oh, what a great period of time in Yankton sports history, an era of baseball never
experienced before, and doubtless if it will ever be experienced in Yankton again. This
was Terrys baseball at its finest.

The large banner across Main Street
indicating Baseball Tonight and seeing Don
Cadowi heading toward the ballpark armed
with his folding chair meant the Yankton
Terrys were in town for a home game. I
can vividly remember watching the hundreds of fans filing through the gate, kids yelling
at their favorite players during warm-up in an
attempt to get his attention to sign an autograph and then filling up the bleacher
carries, fans buying a cold bear at the conces-
sion stand, those brightly painted advertise-
ments on the outfield fence, and seeing my
dad, L.H. Imig, in his usual seat. This was
Riverside Diamond and the home of the
Yankton Terrys baseball team. What a
devoting era of my personal life, as well as
the many players, those people who were dear
friends of the Terrys who donated so much
of their personal time and effort, and the
thousands of fans who most likely counted
some of the greatest baseball played in the
Midwest! This was summer entertainment for
these fans during that too short-lived era of
Yankton Terrys baseball.

It all started the year 1947. The prior
year of 1946 saw Yankton field two baseball
teams, the Yankton Merchants and the
Yankton Cowboys. However, the teams merged
in 1947, and the newly organized team
was without a name. The Yankton P&D
newspaper sponsored a contest to name the
team and the winning name was selected by
sportswriter, Don Bierie. The entry submit-
ted by John "Pop" Hale from Medford, Oregon, was chosen as the winning entry for what
was the "Yankton Territorials" but it wasn't
long before the nickname "Yankton Terrys"
was coined and that name stuck.

The Terrys were controlled by a local board
of baseball commissioners and the team
was under the guidance of owners, Mike
Imig and John "Pop" Hale. The club
saw George Greenlee, Wes Novotny, Clifford
Larson, Kenneth Brimmer, Ralph Gudmun-
son, Frank Duffy, Frank Berry, and Wes

L.H. Imig, Louise Pupa, Mike Imig taken
in 1951, in front of Tropicana Hotel, Havana, Cuba,
where Mike went to bring them to the United States.

Emanuel Brennan, 1st Dakota, C
Kenneth Ireland, France Herodel
Ricci, Kopel, Christian Cowman

Neufeld as the baseball coach; other people involved in the
team were: Don Bierie, sports editor
state director; Don Volle, head
Farrel, supervisor; Howard
manager; Hal and Gene Arnold
Hicks, head gatekeeper;
Manns, transportation.

The first game the Yankton
was on May 8, 1947, at 2:30 P
1,000 fans filed into Riverside! The
team new play Verrillio
Wallbaum threw out the first
Terry's lost 0-4, but a year
Anderson, three innings
This was the birth of a b
Yankton - 6

Hicks, ss AB 5, R 0, H 2, PO 2, A 0; Wood, ss AB 5, R 0, H 2, PO 2, A 0; Mayer, rf AB 4, R 1, H 2, PO 2, A 0; Horacek, cf AB 4, R 0, H 2, PO 2, A 0; G. Anderson, lb AB 4, R 0, H 0, PO 0, A 0; Conner, 1b AB 4, R 1, H 1, PO 9, A 0; Kessler, 2b AB 4, R 1, H 3, PO 1, A 1; Kruvink, c AB 2, R 0, H 0, PO 0, A 0; G. Anderson, p AB 2, R 0, H 2, PO 0, A 0; Atteberry, p AB 1, R 1, H 1, PO 0, A 2; Brimmer, if AB 1, R 0, H 0, PO 0, A 0; Oswald, c AB 5, R 1, H 0, PO 2, A 0; Milliken, c AB 1, R 0, H 0, PO 0, A 0; Totals AB - AB 40, R 6, H 13, PO 27, A 7.


Score by innings:
Yankton - 1 0 2 0 0 0 0 - 6
Vermillion - 0 0 0 0 7 2 0 0 3 - 12

Errors - Brown,; Kelly,; Hicks,; Brimmer,; Kessler,; Oswald,.

Runs batted in - Hicks,; Edgerton,; Wood,; Mayer,; Conner,; Horacek,; Palensky,; Oswald,; Kessler,; Kruvink,; Oswald,; Milliken,; Atteberry,; Oswald,.

Stolen bases - Hicks,; Edgerton,; Palensky,; Milliken,; Oswald,; Evens,; Slocum,.

Double plays - Lee to Evans; Lee to Evans.

DP on bases - Vermillion 7; Yankton 10.
Base on balls - off Palensky; off Wood,; off Slocum.

As I pointed out, the foundation of the Terry organization was a board of baseball commissioners. I mention the following commissioners, not to the exclusion of others, but only because they were the most dedicated year after year to keep the Terrys rolling.

Ted Mayer - A state tax collector and a great Terry fan. He was in charge of gate receipts and team finances. Ted’s hard work will never be forgotten.

Don Cardwell - A commissioner for many years and a true Terry fan. He assisted in player selection as well as working in many other areas involving the Terrys.

Carl Wallaum - A local pharmacist and Mayor of Yankton. A number one hacker of the Terrys and baseball in Yankton.

Doc Perry - A commissioner who helped in raising money to support the team. He was a fan who promoted Terry baseball in Yankton.

Bill Coon - A radio personality who lived the game. Bill was always there whenever he was needed.

Greenlee - A good commissioner who provided jobs for many players and was really dedicated to Terry baseball.

Bill Cook - He operated the Torgary and was instrumental in running the team’s finances.

Leb Scobie - A hard working commissioner who assisted in all aspects of the Terry program.

Jules Flage - Jules operated the Grain Belt Distributing Company and truly dedicated himself to Yankton Terry baseball. His contributions to the Terrys could never receive the credit deserved. I know that he donated his time and efforts, not for any ego

Emmett Brennan, 1st Dakota, Carl Wallaum, Mayor took their picture with all the players including Kenneth Ireland, Francis Horacek, Wido Brimmer, Hanson, Runmer, Muller, Kontel, Sitz, Peterka, Engle, Riord, Kope, Christian, Cowman, and Anderson.

Neufeld as the baseball commissioner. Other people involved in the program in 1947 were Don Bierie, sports editor, Roy Smith, state director; Don Volin, head umpire; Gene Farrell, supervisor; Howard Conners, team manager; Hal and Gene Anderson, assistants; Harold Hicks, head gatekeeper; and George Means, transportation.

The first game the Yankton Terrys played was on May 8, 1947, at 2:30 P.M., when over 1000 fans filled into Riverside Diamond to see the new team play Vermillion. Mayor Carl Wallaum threw out the first ball. The Terrys lost 12-6, but a young pitcher, Hal Anderson, three four innings of no-hit ball. This was the birth of a baseball era in Yankton that was to become such an intimate, enjoyable, and memorable part of my life as well as so many other people in the Yankton area. The following box score shows the line-up of that first historical game.

Vermillion - 12

R. Brown, c AB 5, R 1, H 0, PO 0, A 1; Lee, 2b AB 5, R 1, H 2, PO 4, A 5; Heckenlively, cf AB 5, R 1, H 2, PO 1, A 0; J. Brown, 3b AB 5, R 2, H 0, PO 0, A 1; Edgerton, sc AB 5, R 1, H 1, PO 1, A 2; Evans, 1b AB 5, R 1, H 2, PO 9, A 0; Slocum, ld AB 5, R 1, H 1, PO 5, A 0; Palensky, rf AB 5, R 2, H 1, PO 2, A 0; Palensky, p AB 4, H 2, H 2, PO 1, A 1; Totals AB - AB 42, R 12, H 11, PO 27, A 10.

The Yankton Terrys.
Dizzy Dean Day

We heard it may be possible to have Dizzy visit Yankton so St. Genevieve and Frank Duffy went. Arrangements were made, and I Company agreed to pick up the parade at Yankton. We planned to have one of the largest parades ever in Yankton. That evening the playing Hartington, Nebraska, we asked Dizzy if he would sign autographs. He signed three autographs and then went to see the game. In the seventh inning Dizzy went to the booth, and the crowd loved him.

We won the game by a score of 6-1. It was the biggest crowd ever at Riverside Diamond, and I have never seen a crowd estimated at 5,000 fans. It was truly great and Dizzy Dean Day in Yankton.

The Cuban Connection

While Battista was still in poor condition, I got some young Cuban ballplayers. They were so exciting, fans loved them.

Angel "The Arm" Tedosio, catcher, and could play the addition to that, he was a top-notch catcher. After hitting a home run, he would chase and up his hat to the chin at home plate.

Lou Pugliese was an iron-armed pitcher who every day if you would ask him to would really cheer him on, and I fan loved him.

Nick Sol was a talented Col who could play any position on the field.

The Cuban boys played for us in their own language. He had the Cardinals, and Eddie Stankey was great. Every night they were always out there, and I never thought about the fans. It wasn't quite ready for a black box.

I eventually made a deal for the Chicago White Sox through flow even know what I was doing. I sent him to Tampa, Florida, for $250. At his first test at bat against - the pitching was great and ended up playing in the Mexia three years.

Angel was truly loved and the Cuban fans were the Cottage Club, and contributed the St. Louis Cardinals while he played his blissful soul.

In thinking back to the base so much in writing this story, again, players, and teams come to mind. I remember Earl "Windy" Brimmer, a pitcher who played in St. Louis for years. Others like Fran Charlie Cook, Robert "Spud" Shorty Hicks, Glenn Smith, Lee Olson, Ken Ireland, and Cork were outstanding performers for Howard Comans, who is a sports own right in South Dakota, manager and player for the Anderson, who played on the first All-American, and later drafted by the Dodgers but turned down the chance to go to his college education. I went to State College to recruit Hal to the

This is taken in John Lang's cafe now a medical clinic.

trip, but because he truly loved and lived in Yankton baseball to the ultimate. A dear friend and close friend of mine and truly missed.

Frank Duffy - A commissioner that never gave up. He was instrumental in never raising the money to make night baseball at Riverside Diamond a reality. A real supporter of Terry baseball.

Many other people served in the capacity of commissioner and in promoting the team. It was truly a team effort.

I was involved in the team as what might be termed as the general manager. I employed the players, recruited players from colleges, and tried to make sure the team operation was successful.

Running the baseball team involved a lot more than just finding good ball players and counting the money after a game. You had to deal with the personal problems of the players, financial problems, housing problems, transportation problems, player eligibility of the college players, just to mention a few. I will try to give a few examples of some of the problems I dealt with and how they were handled.

First, the big problem we always faced was the financial support of the team. The commissioner and myself would go around to Yankton's businessmen and ask (or beg) for financial donations. These donations were crucial to the team's continued operation since this money, along with the gate receipts, were used to defray the payroll of the "professionals" who played for the team.

Every year it seemed to get a bit more difficult to take in enough money from the donations and gate receipts to meet team expenses. This was not only true in Yankton, but in the other cities which were supporting teams similar to the Terrys. I imagine the age of the Depression, the development of Lewis & Clark Lake, as well as other factors, all played a role in the decline in the interest of fans in baseball. Eventually, everyone involved in semi-pro baseball in the Basin League were forced to throw in towel because they just could not find enough "angels" or persons willing to financially support the finances necessary to keep a team going. I doubt if many people realize how much money, let alone the time, people gave to the Terry team out of their personal pockets, in order the fans could enjoy the quality of baseball played in the Basin League.

We also met player payroll through jobs to the player. This was especially true with the college players that we had on the team. All college players had to work a certain number of hours every day in order that they maintained their college eligibility and wouldn't be classified as a professional. I would have to find these college players jobs in Yankton. I recall Dr. Perry, Montgomery Ward, Walburg Drug, Sears, the Togger, Greebles Furniture, Grain Belt Distributing, as well as my business, Mike Jameson and Hotel, as well as others, providing employment to these college players. Some of the players were assigned to work on the ballpark, helping Roy Mitchell, in keeping up the grounds, in order to fulfill the employment requirements. Representatives from the National Collegiate Athletic Association of Kansas City would unexpectedly show up in Yankton to insure the college players had jobs and were putting in their required time each day.

Another problem I dealt with was housing for the players. Many, if not most, of the ballplayers couldn't afford to stay in a hotel, so people would put them up in their homes. Many times I would come home and tell my wife, Irene, that I couldn't find a place for the players, and she would always find room in our house. I have to say "thanks" to Steve for the many sacrifices she made during those years when I was so involved with the Terrys. My mother and dad, Elsie and Louie Ising, always had two or three ballplayers at their house. Many other people in Yankton would provide room or have players over for dinner. Many lasting friendships developed from these arrangements.

Another major problem I constantly had to deal with was transportation of the team. When the Terrys had a game out of town it would take five to seven cars to transport the players and equipment. These trips involved extensive traveling to places like Winner, Pierre, or Valentine, Nebraska, to just name a few. But the Terry "friends" were great and there were people who I would call once or twice a week to provide a car or gas, and a driver to make the trip. Through the years, however, it became an almost impossible task to deal with, and the team eventually bought a used bus to provide transportation. Jules Flagg was quite knowledgeable about trucks, so he became our driver. Jules would get up on the morning of a road trip and ready the bus. Then he would drive the team to wherever we were playing, and on many trips, back to Yankton the same night, in order the college players would be back for their jobs the next morning. But we sure had a lot of fun on those road trips, and no one ever complained.

I also had to keep direct contact with the college coaches since they would want to know how their boys were doing and to keep a check on them all the time.

Even though the problems at times were difficult, the enjoyable experiences I had far outweighed any of those problems. My baseball experiences and acquaintances are too numerous to include them all, but I will mention a few of my favorites and hope you will also find them interesting.

Carl Hertz

A book could be written about the Hertz family and baseball in Menno, South Dakota. At one time Menno fielded a team made up of eight Hertz brothers and one brother-in-law that could beat most teams they played. Since I was from Menno I was familiar with the Hertz baseball story and especially their pitcher, Carl.

I knew Carl Hertz was a great pitching talent, and he had been signed by the Cleveland Indians. Carl had been playing with the Indians' farm club and he heard he wasn't happy with the deal. I also knew Carl would be a great drawing card for the Terrys so I called him, and fortunately he decided to quit the Indians, and he became the Terry at a very good salary at that time. I was exactly right about Carl, and he was one of the outstanding pitchers for years and packed the stands with fans. Carl was loved by the fans and is a first class person. He was one of the greatest baseball pitchers that ever came from Menno in all of Dakota.

Menno and operates a construction company. I imagine he could still throw a few good innings in he wanted to.

Gibson Gets a Tryout

A young man from Omaha came to me in Yankton and told me he was looking for job pitching baseball. He introduced himself as Bob Gibson. The Terry manager and myself agreed to take a look at Gibson. After the try out, I decided, along with our manager, that he wasn't strong enough or good enough to pitch for the Terrys and turned him down. He did get a job with Chamberlain and Croton, Nebraska.

Of course, this is the same Bob Gibson that went on to become the baseball's greatest pitchers with the St. Louis Cardinals and earned the honor of being named "Player of the Year in 1946. I can easily say this was my biggest "goof" in baseball recruiting.
Dizzy Day at

The Cubs Connection

While Balsert was still in power in Cuba,
I got some young Cuban ballplayers for the Terrys. They were so exciting, and how the fans loved them.

An angel called "The Arms" to Toledo as a pitcher, catcher, and could play the infidels. In addition to that, he was a top-home run hitter. After hitting a home run, he would round the bases and tip his hat to the cheering crowd at home plate.

Luke Puga was an iron-armed pitcher who could pitch every day if you would ask him to. He was a real crowd pleaser.

Nick Sol was a talented Cuban infielder, who could play any position with his best.

The Cubs played for us three years. I then took Angel Toledo to the St. Louis Cardinals, and Eddie Stanley thought he was great, but, unfortunately, for Angel, the Cards weren't quite ready for a black player at that time.

Eventually, I made a deal for Angel with the Chicago White Sox through Frank Lane. I flew to Cuba and picked up Angel and took him to Tampa, Florida, for spring training. At his first time at bat against Joe Nuxell of the Reds, the "Terry" batted a home run. He ended up playing in the Mexican League for three years.

Angel was truly loved and cherished by all of the Terry fans and contributed so much to the team while he played here, God bless him!

In thinking back to the baseball era which I loved so much, Angel was a terrific player. In 1965, I got a terrific player from the St. Louis Cardinals, Charlie Cook, Robert "Spud" Groveschuck, and we traded him. I then traded for Lou Pini, who was an excellent pitcher for the Terrys.

A couple of teams that I can remember so well were the 1981 and 1984 Terrys. They were both championship teams.

In 1951, the manager was Joe Marges, and he was the real star of the team. He was an all-star of the Big-Ten Conference. We had the Cubs, Pogo and Toledo, on that team.

Jerry Smith was the most valuable pitcher in the Big-Ten and when he took the mound, he was comparable to the 20-year-old New York Mets sending out Dwight Gooden. That's how good he was. (On occasion I would even bet on him.) Some of the other players on that team were Mel Heir, a star from the University of Wisconsin, and Stan Cook, a 22-year-old from Lutestring, Thrones, Nebraska. A Chicago boy whom I got from the University of Wisconsin; Bill Branson of Canton, Nebraska; Howard Comers; Spud Gross- ochs from Scotland, South Dakota, who went to work with the St. Louis Cardinals, Wayne Rausch, an Akron, Iowa, lad who had a .325 batting average; Pan Horacek, a top Terry battting champion; Jim Abbott; and the bat boy was Colin Kipatin, the best bat boy in the entire Basin League.

When Joe Marges had that year. Not to take anything away from Manager Mares, but with all the talent the Terrys had in 1951, I think even Bill Branson could have brought in a winner.

In 1951 was the best years the Terrys had. Joe Mares was again our manager and catcher that year. I had seen Bill Laadike playing with Spencer, Nebraska, and asked him to play for the Terrys. I knew Laadike was an excellent player as he was an All-American player in 1939-47. His pitching staff consisted of Archie White, Jerry Smith, Norm Stewart, Ed Hobaugh, and Carl Hertz. Norm Stewart was a baseball and basketball star out of the University of Missouri. Norm later went back to Missouri as basketball coach and presently holds that position. Eddie Hobaugh was obtained from Michigan State. He went to the Washington Senators and had a 9-10 record with them one year.

At second base we had Bernie Schnebeler, and I had gotten Bernie from Sioux City, Iowa.

Bill Branson started in the outfield and played high quality baseball for us for many years and became one of the fans' favorites. Bill was also a very good catcher and a tremendously strong hitter. Also in the outfield that year was Miller, or Miller, from Akron, Iowa.

I had a nice letter from Bill Laadike after the 1951 season. He went to Charlotte, North Carolina, for college players in Iowa. The Basin League was good baseball and had prepared him for the big leagues. He noted the compliments, thirty years later, a member of the Spanish American War. The Cubans had just given him an opportunity to play in organized baseball.

Some of the managers that did such a wonderful job at the helm of the Terrys were Howard Comers, Wayne Rausch, Joe Marges, and Joe Mares was probably our most popular manager. I got Joe from Sioux City, and he managed us for many years and made his permanent residence in Yankton. He was also a steady player for the Terrys in addition to his being manager.

Rick Stöcker as a manager we got out of Sioux Falls, Nick Adcock was another manager, who was a good catcher and hitter. Mike Cook from Omaha, Nebraska.

One of our most colorful managers and also a pitcher was Clet Brewer. Clet was a Black Girl I got from the minor leagues. He was so knowledgeable in baseball and was a high-class man. He loved at the Gurney Hotel and many local families, as the Rickses, Flueggs, as well as the Imsigs, would invite him to their homes for dinner. Brewer went back to the minor leagues after his stint with the Terrys.

One of the great memories of the Terrys was the many fans that followed the team. Although I can't remember the numbers and hundreds of fans who would come to every game and loudly followed the team, a couple of local parents and special recognition.

Lucy Rico and Marie Devine were two of the most loyal (and vocal I might add) fans that any team could ask for. They were in the homes stands, as well as traveling to the out of town games, for every game we played. Marie would sit on the third base side and I would never forget the shillelagh voice I had every heard, when Marie would cheer on the Terrys or get on the opposition. Needless to say, she...
was quite a cheerleader and would really stir up the fans. Next to her sat Lucy and when those two would chime in together, it sounded like a packed house in Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. It wasn't the safest or easiest position to be if you were the umpire on the third base side and made an unpopular call. The umpire might be "railroaded" out of Riverside Diamond. One night Marie followed umpire Joe Walters not only out of the park, but "rescued" him to his car where Walters got an awful as Marie let him know what she thought of a call he had made. Hearing the duet of Marie and Lucy was worth the price of the admission to Riverside alone. (But a pair of ear muffs were a handy item if you sat anywhere close to those two great fans.)

Another fan who deserves credit was a young man who was also the sports writer of the Yankton P&D. Don Bierie was a great promoter of Terry baseball as well as being a loyal fan. He wrote a daily column covering the Terrys as well as publishing the players' statistics. Don knew the players as well as baseball, and he was very helpful in letting the public know how great the Terrys really were. He was very instrumental in promoting interest which brought out the fans to the ball games. Bierie was also a loyal fan. In fact, Don was at a Terry game when three of his children were born. That's loyalty!!!

The last Terry fan I have to give credit to was a man I was also a great fan of myself, my dad, L.H. Imig, or Louie, was employed as a salesman who traveled extensively. But I can assure you that when the Terrys were in town, his route was cut short so he could be home early to see his favorite team, the Yankton Terrys. As I mentioned, my dad and mother also provided room and board to many ball players through the years, such as, Joe Manges, Ed Hobaugh, Norm Stewart, and Bobby Klum. Dad was a die-hard Terry fan who never missed a game.

Before I conclude, I should point out and mention what made Basin League baseball so great. There was a special flavor or atmosphere that was involved. We had great college players, minor leaguers, and the best local amateurs in the area. Many of these guys were looking for a chance to make it in the majors while others just enjoyed a chance to play high-quality baseball. We played semi-pro baseball in a somewhat organized style. But we didn't have the stringent rules that are involved in pro baseball today. We didn't deal with written contracts, no-cut clauses, and the like. I would hire a "pro" for so much, and he would agree to play. It was as simple as that. And if a player didn't produce, he would be gone, and a new player was brought in. Some fans would enjoy a bit of wagering at the games which always added some interest in the outcome of the game.

As you can see, Yankton was fortunate to experience some of the finest baseball teams that played in the Midwest. I was fortunate to be so closely involved in running those great teams that were crowned champions so many times in South Dakota. I want to thank the great fans of the Yankton area who were so supportive of the Terrys. Holly Cow, was that a fun era!!

by Mike Imig
TRANSPORTATION, DAMS AND BRIDGES

307 West Third St. Yankton, SD.
The Diary of a Trip from North Bridgewater, Massachusetts to Yankton, Dakota, Territory, April 4, 1864 — May 23, 1864

April 4, 1864, left North Bridgewater, Massachusetts, for New York City. April 10, started for Syracuse. April 12, left for Buffalo.

In Buffalo we laid down in the depot until morning (11th.) and then were backed down to Lake Erie on the Ferry Boat and crossed to Canada. Saw immense fields of ice in the lake. The current is very swift there so it rarely freezes solid.

We are now on the Buffalo and Lake Huron R.R. and the measurement one ever was on without exception. On nearing Stratford, Ontario at 1½ clock in the evening we met with a most lucky accident, if there is any luck in an accident. We were in the center of the worst swamp on the whole route and about 3 miles from Stratford. (There were 15 cars — 8 freight and 7 passengers). The banks are steep and on each side was deep black water full of dead trees, some piled up three deep and all crisis crossed and every which way. There were two inches of snow on the ground and snowing very fast.

All at once the car I was in (which was the forward one and all the freight cars happened to be ahead of the passenger cars) began to stop up and down. The women and children went up and down like popcorn. I stood upon my seat but did not lean. In an instant the head of the car was smashed in and I could see the end of a freight car sticking through our car. The women didn’t have time to be scared before it was all over. I was very much vexed with some of the men for being scared as it only made worse with the women. There were a great many more children among them so it would have been a very easy matter to have damaged the cars.

I went to the end of the car and squeezed through the ruin and behold, five cars were off the track. Two of them were down the steep bank and partly in the water. Not a person was hurt. The men were driven away 60 ft. on sleepers and the rails were all torn up.

We were detained there 24 hours and in the meantime I went to a Tavern called Tinker-man House. Didn’t stop there but at another one for dinner. As we always slept in the cars from there I sent a letter to North Bridgewater.

Our money was at a discount of 5½ when it was bringing a premium in the States. But so good was the difference in prices that I bought goods cheaper than in the States. After staying there for 24 hours we left for Stratford where we connected with the Grand Trunk R.R. and went to the St. Clair River at Sarnia, where we got into the Port Huron and then to the Michigan Central.

Before we started it was discovered that one of our men with his daughter was left behind so Mr. Foster asked me to stay ‘til the next train and to see them safely across the river and into the train. There were three tracks. While I was waiting, I took a stroll up the lake (Lake Huron) and the engineer asked me if I would like to go to the fishermen sene for whitefish and of course I was pleased to go. The sene was rolled on a barge reel that stood on the beach. It was 12 feet long and 8 ft. through. It was sport to see the operation.

I went across the ferry when the express came in and found the persons that were left behind and started for Chicago. We overtook our train as that was a special one and was obliged to stop for the express to pass as that is always the rule in going through Michigan. The time of the grade of the R.R. was more uneven than any road I was on before. This was the Michigan Central R.R. that we went on through to Chicago without change. I thought I had seen sand hills in Massachusetts on Cape Cod but they are no comparison to the vast number on our route. The land is of a reddish color and quite fine and clear from stones. It is said that the sand fills the air in such vast clouds as to make the houses shake and I should judge by appearances that the hills changed their base in a certain period of time.

But it was very interesting as you are riding in the cars to look out and see the train descendning a grade of about 20 degrees and in each side bows up the red sand hills, the cars going at the rate of about a mile a minute. All along the route I saw plenty of game. As we came in sight of Chicago I thought that delays and accidents were an end and that from that time it would go on smoothly.

Mr. Foster came to me just before we started and desired me to stay over till Monday (we arrived there Saturday A.M.) to buy some goods for several of the party and to look after the freight that we had left off the train after the train had left I started for the Sherman House with Geo. Foster. After we had supper and rested for awhile I went out to buy what little we could. It was so late we decided that we had better not go to the Sherman House but to go to the National and then to the Sherman House for the coming winter. On arriving in Marshalltown I was greeted by some of our Company that happened to be at the depot. Marshalltown is the county seat of Marshall County, a town 8 years old and 1,000 inhabitants with several brick buildings, some quite large. It is a very busy place and has all the appearance of being a large town in a few years. It has a public square and every fine building and has nothing to put it in quite as good taste.

Our party was quartered in the largest hall in town. It was opposite the square and a very pleasant room it was, too. It was a fine sight to look out at times and see the prairie fires in every direction looking like some vast confessional. Dense black smoke would roll up to the zenith and sometimes when there are a number in view it would light up the whole horizon.

While I was in Marshalltown a man came to me on the street and said to me what I was doing up there, that he thought I was staying away. I looked at him but didn’t know him and said I was some ways from home but my mother knew I was out and he asked me if my name was not ? I said it was and what it was. He said I was the fellow he saw at Auburn (a town some few miles down the road) and that he had thoughts and looks and talk were the same. I could not in any way verify his statement and I believe that he was not joking about it. He went off convinced in his mind that I was not who I am. I finally told him that I was and said that I thought the matter over and I would try to do the same.

That afternoon we started for Marietta, a town of about 20 houses, one Tavern and one store. That was all there was to the town except a Catholic Church that lies down and left just as it fell, so it is a church. We encamped on Sku town. For three days we took the Marietta House and a very house it was for a new country. All the rooms were all entered by one t that led from the dining room chamber, that went the whole half and house and half the width. Th beds in one room and from the five doors that led in as many two of them had windows and door. The others were fitted by leaving the doors open into reception room with 5 beds.

For breakfast we had fried breed and warm drink for din in with fried potatoes. Supper w with the same for breakfast. At on this for three days the Com for Illinois Grove. They found h at noon and halled for dinner. T difficult place to cross. The was the water most of their bodies.

After they had fed their te started but one got mired back to help them. I waited ther and saw they would stay all night up my mind to start on shew Grove. It was about nine miles or 6½ o’clock. I stopped to old man who was standing being to try to sell one of our party a of the oldest looking and oldest I have ever seen and if I was who was westernized, he was on about everything in general in particular ‘I finally asked h stop with him that night. Oh yes and I think I would have gone up to the camp the first folks and come on down to sup time, sir, any time you please, try to give you as good a supper will not come my way. I don’t know as you will like it.

I told him that I was just as I was going to the camp and even returned to Mr. Isaac Gibson’s. The man was a graceful man in n but I will try. He was verygrily hair thrown back of his h way to keep it out of his eyes as I shoulders. I should judge he every weeks and when I was in it was a sign that he was a lached hat, none the better for wear any coat or hat and the color of his shirt. He wore a necktie instead of a coat and tie on his how so soon as he could get his 5 minutes in.

Well, for his wife, she was v whenever she said anything she was the most modest but I thought she was that. The daughter looked the picture of a Home nex. Now for supper I sat on a chair that was the seat on a table was then most up to my sh when the rest of the family sat down. I thought I was not alone. I vi times to help myself when I was.
I bought all the goods that we took the express train there. 11 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 12:00 noon. The train ran on the route 12:15 p.m. 12:30 p.m. 12:45 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:15 p.m. It looked like 1:30 p.m. 1:45 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:15 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:45 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:15 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:45 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:45 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:15 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 8:45 p.m. 9:00 p.m. 9:15 p.m. 9:30 p.m. 9:45 p.m. 10:00 p.m. 10:15 p.m. 10:30 p.m. 10:45 p.m. 11:00 p.m. 11:15 p.m. 11:30 p.m. 11:45 p.m. 12:00 a.m. 12:15 a.m. 12:30 a.m. 12:45 a.m. 1:00 a.m. 1:15 a.m. 1:30 a.m. 1:45 a.m. 2:00 a.m. 2:15 a.m. 2:30 a.m. 2:45 a.m. 3:00 a.m. 3:15 a.m. 3:30 a.m. 3:45 a.m. 4:00 a.m. 4:15 a.m. 4:30 a.m. 4:45 a.m. 5:00 a.m. 5:15 a.m. 5:30 a.m. 5:45 a.m. 6:00 a.m. 6:15 a.m. 6:30 a.m. 6:45 a.m. 7:00 a.m. 7:15 a.m. 7:30 a.m. 7:45 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 8:15 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 12:00 noon. 12:15 p.m. 12:30 p.m. 12:45 p.m. 1:00 p.m. 1:15 p.m. 1:30 p.m. 1:45 p.m. 2:00 p.m. 2:15 p.m. 2:30 p.m. 2:45 p.m. 3:00 p.m. 3:15 p.m. 3:30 p.m. 3:45 p.m. 4:00 p.m. 4:15 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:45 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 5:15 p.m. 5:30 p.m. 5:45 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:15 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 6:45 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m. 7:30 p.m. 7:45 p.m. 8:00 p.m. 8:15 p.m. 8:30 p.m. 8:45 p.m. 9:00 p.m. 9:15 p.m. 9:30 p.m. 9:45 p.m. 10:00 p.m. 10:15 p.m. 10:30 p.m. 10:45 p.m. 11:00 p.m. 11:15 p.m. 11:30 p.m. 11:45 p.m. 12:00 a.m. 12:15 a.m. 12:30 a.m. 12:45 a.m. 1:00 a.m. 1:15 a.m. 1:30 a.m. 1:45 a.m. 2:00 a.m. 2:15 a.m. 2:30 a.m. 2:45 a.m. 3:00 a.m. 3:15 a.m. 3:30 a.m. 3:45 a.m. 4:00 a.m. 4:15 a.m. 4:30 a.m. 4:45 a.m. 5:00 a.m. 5:15 a.m. 5:30 a.m. 5:45 a.m. 6:00 a.m. 6:15 a.m. 6:30 a.m. 6:45 a.m. 7:00 a.m. 7:15 a.m. 7:30 a.m. 7:45 a.m. 8:00 a.m. 8:15 a.m. 8:30 a.m. 8:45 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 9:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:45 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 11:15 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m. 12:00 noon.
to see them walk straight into the water with their Sunday clothes on but they seemed to like it. One lady came up almost strangled and as soon as she could speak she yelled out "Glory" and clapped her hands as if she liked it.

About five in the afternoon one of the struggling teams came up and said the remainder could not get there that night as the oxen were all beat out and there was no feed. One man who had lived in the West many years but said it was impossible to get along if he had to go many miles. But he said he would go and I was the only one who could go as well as not. So I went with him. The sun was just setting and the storm increased.

We didn’t want to go nights to the wagons before dark with some corn to feed the poor cattle since they had not been fed since the day before at noon. About three miles out we met one man with as many of the women and children as they could get into this team and soon after we met the remainder of the cattle that were being driven in for feed. So let one man take my place and I drove his oxen into the settlement. They turned about and went back ahead as we didn’t get past that night. The next day was Monday and they couldn’t start on ‘til they went back to the teams. When they came in they found they were too heavily loaded and what did the man who had any goods do but take off my trunk. I had taken my trunk looking to have a bag of logs covered with hay. You could see between most every log but it couldn’t be helped so I had to make the best of it. I had been there four days and got well acquainted with the people and their ways.

The old man was born in Groton, Massachusetts but left there about 40 years ago. He is 55 now. He called me “Yank” (Yankee) and was full of jokes. Always ready to answer anybody talking about himself or any thing with a jammed full and many sleep on the floors but I had no trouble. When night came I asked Dad, as I called him, if he had a bed for me and he said, of course, you are all right. I’ll attend to you. You are a regular hoarder. So I continued like that ‘til I left. The old lady gave me a letter introducing me to her sister whose husband kept a hotel at the next station (Webster City). I wish I could write down some of the stories the old man told me while there but I haven’t time for it now.

I left there Tuesday morning about 8 o’clock and after passing over the same style of hills and dales as the journey to Leavens’ Grove I came to Webster City at 2 P.M., a distance of 18 miles.

When I saw the town in sight the town the view is just splendid and after travelling for two days over such a series of hills that are entirely barren (as the grass wasn’t started much) and took down on a nice little village in the valley of the Myrtus was a very cheery sight.

The place contained two hotels, both were excellent and I think the best I have seen in Iowa. It was the County Seat and bid fair to be the most populous town in the county with more than 200 inhabitants which is called a big city in Northern Iowa.

The next place to make was Fort Dodge. I left Webster at about 8:00 A.M. and if I had taken the straight route it would have been 20 miles but I went by a place called Brandy, near the Coon River, five miles farther and got there at noon. I took dinner at the only house there. The folks were genuine Westerns and they had a right smart farm and make no mistake he had about 150 acres broke and some good buildings, one brick. After dinner the teams came but I pushed on for Ft. Dodge.

After I struck out into the prairie a few miles I was overtaken by one of the horse teams, a splendid pair of bays owned by C.H. Fowler who insisted on my getting in and riding with him. I told him I had my mind set on walking to Ft. Dodge from the start and I had just as leave walk. I got so I liked it and it didn’t tire me much to walk all day. He said I must join him, that a few miles wouldn’t make much difference and he wanted my company, so I got in.

On our way we saw a few sand cranes and to try our skill, Mr. Hart (a horse team driver who came along soon) took his rifle and told me to try it. The crane was about 150 yards away. I struck the ground exactly under his foot so that he hopped up but did not fly. Hart tried it on him and struck about an inch to the left of mine. If either of us had elevated the sight for the distance we would have fished him but we didn’t get him. Soon after we crossed another bird and we gave him a trial at a distance but missed him. So I took my gun and fished him first pop.

We started on and arrived in Ft. Dodge before dark. As much as I have heard about Ft. Dodge at home and abroad I was surprised to find such a town. There is there a few nice buildings here, both brick and stone but the rest are mean and the people as a body are meaner than all the rest. I got acquainted with a few fine men and very few, very.

The town is on the east side of the Des Moines River on a high table bluffs. The old Indian quarters there and I stopped at the old tavern, the first building erected there. Directly back of the building there was a deep ravine that extended for miles and it was about 50 feet down to the bottom that was full of springs.

The town can grow to the edge of this bank but I don’t know how it can extend much farther. It would be called the jumping off place. There is one very fine building on a high bluff a short distance out of town made of gypsum. It is owned by Mr. Duncan, son of the old painter of the Williams house. Mr. Dodge who had charge of the Post and of the Indians.

I was taking a walk around the town and as I spoke to everyone I come across, I did likewise to an old man that I saw in his garden. He came up to the fence and we got to talking about the age and growth of the place and I learned his name was Major Williams. He said he had seen many buffalo and Indians every spring. A couple of large houses now were and the Sioux used to camp there every spring. He had lived with me two hours and if I would call around he would be pleased to give me more history. But I was full and had to leave the next day so that was the last I saw of him.

I went to church there. A bell was set on a frame on the ground. It was so large that it would have smashed in the roof and perhaps they couldn’t get it up upon the roof.

I went to the Methodist in the evening with two fair damsels who belonged to our party. The service was to commence at early candlelight but I didn’t know what was early candlelight, as some light earlier than others. So soon after sunset we started but we were the first ones so we took a walk around by the big gypsum block. It is a splendid building and no mistake it is the most singular looking stone I ever saw. It looks exactly like cattle soap. When green only, the stones are straight across and not in blotches but the same colors. The stone cuts with a knife like soapstone when first taken from the quarry but it hardens in the air and it will in time be as hard as granite.

After examining the building to our satisfaction we went back to church. The ladies sat on one side and the gents on the other (old style). After church I walked down to Camp and stayed there a little while and went back to my quarters.

The next day I was to start in company with a young man for the Twin Lakes, a distance of 30 miles but for some reason he couldn’t go. So I got a man to lend me his horse and two of us got on his back and he forded the Des Moines River as that is the only way of getting across. The boy went back with the horse and I started alone. I struck across the prairie for the Lakes and got there after 7 o’clock, feeling very warm. After I got supper I felt better and in the morning I was all right.

The Lakes are clean with white sandy bottom and full of fish and clouds of Pelican, Geese, Ducks, Flockers and others. In daytime the temper there would be very nice but towards evening would grow very in stony it was stormy. There was only one house and that stood between the two lakes. The stage came up about noon and I thought it as getting too hot for walking and said to the man that I would take the stage for Sac City. I rode outside and it was the hardest journey I made it. It almost jerked my head off.

When I got to Sac City, I met an express man that I got acquainted with in Ft. Dodge. We wanted to go on with him to Sioux City, as his eyes had been from last winter and he couldn’t see very well. So I consented. He had on about a ton of Gov’t riffs etc. and we were obliged to ride about it from 8, from the plains to the doors on all the time. The first wood we made was Ida Grove. This was the pestilential spot I saw in the whole of Iowa. The farm and the good house look more like an Eastern home than any I saw. The next was a farm that had a fine farm house and sloping bluff and at the bottom were 2 splendid springs. The folks were very nice and neat and lived in good style for the West. It was the County Seat the town and he was the judge and every thing else as there were only two houses in the county. He owned 3,000 acres. His name was Morehead. They were there at the great stampede from the upper country. They left their home just as it was, took up all their moves and clocking him bought a year’s supply.

When we went there they found the house full of Norwegians who had eaten everything but a few pounds of meat and did other damage on the place. They threw the whole history of it.

Then I saw in the West I saw there. She was a nice old lady. I always get all the stories I can from the different people and they are very interesting. I had the best room in the house with carpet on rocking chair and glass. I don’t know how it is we spoke.

The next morning we started to tivisonville and there got early in tivisonville. There they have an output. a fort with small holes dug out the rifles. It is made by the k perpendicular two sleep and driven into one to hold it up. you come to a corner and the house built in a very odd manner called two, one above the other they are all sleep and look out. the whole soldiers stationed there saddled ready some answer already.

The stopping place is at an Ir only house near the Fort and in the Fort make Correctionville, house with one room and an attic and cook and eat and wash is a he person in it. The house is ab made of logs with a sod roof usual sign of a Tavern (eg. flat pole in front of the house). The and with it is the family I was a how they could keep two more

After we had eaten our dinner eggs and we took a steam down to River about a half mile from the fishing about an hour without wimble we concluded that fish sport. So amused ourselves by yelling like Indians to see if some men who were at work at s from us, but they were not easy to get that up and went back to th the behold two officers from the U drive up which made ten at the the two big dogs. Well by this time nearly dark it was a good time to glad to have if they were starving drove who came from Young before. So now we had fifteen or so. The next question was how going to get back to the (room for one more). 8 of us v with a candle in hand of fame Pa and back stairs which both it tostied the only ergae from the above instead of a dark room the windows, not high enough to s (save at the middle) and fill the amount of rubbish amongst beds made by sawing off four suit bar of the should have for which were laid a Prairie grass m sacks. Of course we didn’t have and I must say I felt rather sleeping on such an institution last in sound repose. I got up feeling as well as ever.

After eating our pork and egg at an early hour with the intiative Sioux City that night which miles the horses were well and all the way with a ton on a braw if we got there we might still show that things were new. Such as a rice new bridge and arrived houses there stand. The stage wait the stages stop to have their drivers take turns stopping the keeps so many around. The lives on cold victuals all that time the horses were not even tied along they would be making cord coming from Sioux City they travel to the Irishman’s and take
Methodist in the evening with
els who belonged to our party.
was to commence at early
what was early
some little earlier than others.
summet we started but we were
so we walked a way around by the
e a splendid building
it is the most singular looking
t looks exactly like castle
green only, the streaks are
and not in blotches but the
the stone cuts with a knife like
first taken from the
in the air and it will in time
improving the building to our
sit at back to the church.
The ladies and the gents on the
hurched I walked down to Camp
I went down a little while and went back.
ay I was to start in company
man for the Twin Lakes, a
bile for some reason he
ist of us got on his back and he
is Moines River as that is the
the boy went back and I
struck I lost my irises for the
I felt very warm. After I
in the morning I was
are clean with white sandy
down on the head, the
Plomer Loons and other birds.
ump of trees could be heard
that stood between the
some up and some in the
and was getting too hot for walking
the pleasure of it) I would
Sac City. I rode outside and
right journey I had made. It
I think he had head off.
Sac City, I met an express
acquainted with in Ft. Dodge
so to go with him to Sioux City, 
about half way up a long
and was about the best place I
in good style for the West.
uty Seat the town and he was
everything else as there were
in the county. He owned
name was Moorehead. They
the great stamps from the.
they left their home just
as provisions and clothing, just
and supply.
went back they found the
house laws who had eaten everything
of undial and other
opposition.
they gave me the
of it.
woman I saw in the
leaving the house.
and dry without any trouble.
asked the fellow who bought a
he said it was good for
and he held his peace.
but how could we two put in those
great heavy boxes which were
some rods from the
wood. We did it by coveniences
and it was about 8 o'clock in
the evening before we got well under
way. We were favored with a
new moon that barely showed
the road. There were many
bridges to cross yet but
that one couldn't help.
us must keep moving.
several times he
we thought we
the road and I would
jump off and walk.
I walked ahead a great share of the
way to look out for trouble but none came along.
I thought it was splendid riding in the
the black hills and deep ravines look
common enough and there was a
hot day was refreshing.
we travelled on without knowing the
we had gone or the
time. But we saw a light in a few houses
and thought we must be near town.
we travelled about two hours after
and I came to the bridge across the
River, a very nice stream that takes
its rise in Minnesota and empties into the
Missouri. Soon after we were at the
Wauragane House stables in Sioux City and I looked
at my watch and it was Sunday morning, 1 o'clock.
I was some hungry because I had been
exercising some and had not eaten for
12 hours. I went to the Hayden House,
roosed these horses and we were
agreed to move on.
I went to bed. I had no idea of the place
and in the morning I stepped out on the
and was right glad to be out of the
exactly opposite within a few rods of the
doors and the
as I was camping about 4 miles
off and in
I never in my life saw such a dirty river. It
looked exactly like poor coffee milk in it
in a stew or in a big
DNA. We were being
curiously 5 miles per hour.
When I was out of the
place of my surprise to see that dirty muddy water
drink. There was an inch of yellow mud on
the bottom but I never tasted such
water anywhere as that. I believe it
cannot to use it that very day and
thought nothing of the mud.
It being Sunday I once went to church
(which I hadn't missed but once, that was in
Chicago) in the morning to the Episcopal
and evening to the Methodis.
the day I took a stroll around town.
North the town is a very high bluff. I should judge
it it was a hundred feet from the down to the
water and had the appearance of being
washed away as high as the top that a left a
perpendicular
impossible.
good view of the town and the river can be had
and always a breeze. The night is splendid.
Looking towards the South, the
River ford can be seen winding around amongst
the bluff top up a distance of 15 or 20 miles.
moor to the East and the plains roll off
out of sight. Looking North, South and East
and not a grove or wood is seen save for a
few clumps of willows on the
the opposite bank of Muddy is a vast amount of
timber, stretching for miles into the interior of
Nebraska. There was (at the time I was
there) 1000 soldiers stationed there who
were to start in a few weeks for the mountains
to hunt out the Indians. They were to go in the
expedition under General Sully. The
camp was at the foot of the bluff nearest the
town and that with the town made a fine appar-
Plank walks are on each side of the principal street and make it very pleasant to promenade on bright evenings. Few cases are loaded with Indians (Winnebagoes), some sitting here.

The buildings are very small, they will not average more than 1220 ft. There are perhaps a half dozen that are two stories. These small churches and two hotels with several beer palaces are among the important buildings.

I put my line in the Muddy, baited for carp. I had a hook pulled off and the next time I put a brass chain with the hook on the end of it and pulled out a cast fish weighing 15 lbs. At that time I went down to look at my line and walked out on a log, and just as I was about to take hold of the line, over I went into the river where I was over my head. But I was all right on swimming and was soon back on the bank looking like a drowned rat.

That was my first swim in the Muddy which I assure you was not very pleasant. It happened after 8 P.M. so I retired to my room and the old man of the House took my clothes and dried them.

The next day I was all right. There were stopping at the Hotel at this time several trappers and hunters and one was a splendid fellow who roomed with me. I liked him better than any one I had met in my travels. He was about 23 years old and splendidly built. He had hunted many an Indian and trapped thousands of beavers and other game. I went out fishing and gunning with three of them several times and they would entertain me with stories more interesting than I have read in books, because I knew they were true and the hero told them. All three were temperate and honest and used no profane words except one who was full of such expressions as "by golly," "by gosh," and "by thunder," that made the most interesting.

One day my roommate (this was Philipps) and myself took a tram up the bank of the Floyd and all along he would discover some signs of mink, fox or some other animal which we had killed in the run, even if I had been looking for them. When he examined them with me I could see them. He seemed to go along as careless as I did. He also showed me beaver cuttings that I would have supposed were cut with an ax. He said he had seen them on a dam that went two and three feet through and the beavers would always make them fall just where they wanted them, and never missed. We sat down under a shady tree on the bank of the river and he said he would hunt for bears forever. I was so interested. I had my revolver at my side (as I never go without it, neither does any man who goes outside of town) and he wanted to try it so I let him do it. He would hit a penny at 25 yards and mine was a small site too. I called it a good shot.

I went with two of the trappers and a fine-looking fellow who came from New York (and was going to New Orleans) and fished in the Muddy and Floyd. One trapper had his field glass that he used on the prairies to look for game. It was splendid and as nice as any opera glass. He had a strap over his shoulder with a case made all of Morocco for the case, and bandolier, take it all together, - stories and sights without the fish. That was a splendid afternoon for Siouxs City for bounties to be put on scalps when they would go in bands of 4 or 5 and make their fortunes. They said they would guarantee to bring in more scalps than Gen. Sully did as they knew every nook and way of the Indians. They said they had rather go two years together than to have fifty. All they wanted were several hounds with rifles and revolvers and they would traverse the whole country.

One afternoon for amusement I went across the river on a flat boat used to bring teams across and who should want to cross but Gen. Sully and one of his staff. So the boatman told me the Gen. made very little show except his eyes which were all bloodshot from excessive drinking. He is full all the time and bloated up. He is led by the but don't look like a man of such capacity for the station he occupies.

The day before I left I went up the bank of the Missouri in the mouth of the Big Sioux, a distance of two miles. Such a wild walk that I was never had before. It was up steep, rugged bluffs and down in the dense thickets of willows and on a long bed of clear beach sand, then up a vast slide that had fallen from some steep bluff caused by the continued wearing away of the bank till finally the top overbalanced the base and down came an immense tract of earth with trees and grass growing as well as ever I should say. I saw one that was at an angle of 40° that contained 30 acres with grass, brushes and trees growing on it and I could see where it broke off from the original above and left a tree exposed at the roots and most ready to follow after. Further along I saw great boulders that looked as if a boy could send them crashing down a hundred feet into Old Muddy. I was away below this on the Missouri river and saw it at a distance of from 60 to 100 feet above. Some places almost arched me at that height. I was perfectly charmed with the scene.

When I arrived at the mouth of the Big Sioux I exclaimed aloud "How Beautiful!" There I was, solitary and alone, thousands of miles from friends and home in far off Iowa and gazing with rapture on the waters of the mighty Missouri and the lovely Sioux. When I was a lad I often heard and beheld the lands of Nebraska on the left and Dakota on the right and stand on the soil of Iowa.

The Missouri makes a square turn here and the Sioux pours its dark water into the center and makes a very beautiful scene. All over the black will come up yellow circles of the Muddy that seems to content for the mastery and at another spot the yellow and black are divided by a straight line and yellow to the right and black to the left. Then a few seconds later the break goes over and the waters coming and tumbling forth into the smooth still waters of the Sioux. I stood and watched it for a long time. Also, the enormous catfish that would tumble over in the water exactly like porpoises. I had heard the catfish stories in the East and wanted to see how true they were.

I saw one of the heads of one as big as a barrel and many are caught that weigh 500 lbs. They are of coarse white and like a hog. Our water has no scales and have horns on each side and on the back and have feelers. In short they are the Longhorn porcupin or ball head on a big scale.

The width of the Missouri at this point is 9 miles, the water is so swift that it is full of long sand bars. I drank some of the Sioux water and preferred the yellow Missouri as the water was so clear and the water and makes the boats look almost like cream. It is so thick I could not see my hand two inches below the surface.

I stayed in Sioux City 6 days waiting for the train to come up. It came one Thursday when the moon shone bright and the next day they started on and I intended to meet them about 8 miles out. As they left at night and I the next morning I thought I would not be far off. I crossed the Big Sioux Ferry at 8 A.M. and was in Dakota. I got a ride several miles through the wood in a Government team of miles. The driver was very kind to me and entertaining with yarns. After I left him I inquired at an Indian ranch if they had seen any emigrants pass that morning and they pretended not to know but I knew well enough that they had full one mile. I got some water at their well to fill my canteen and passed on.

I soon came to another hut and then learned that I was in an Indian settlement. I couldn't make anyone talk. They pretended to be so very ignorant they can talk as well as any white man. They want to hear anything that the white man says, thinking they will get some secret if they pretend ignorance. But I was alone and had no one to talk to.

At the first but I noticed an Indian sticking his head out of a window and he thought I was going by and I did get started by when I discovered a well. I turned back and went straight for the door. I went in and asked for a cup to fill my canteen with and found the head I see through the window was missing. But I got a cup and filled my canteen and didn't feel in the least alarmed.

I went about 1 mile and a farmer going to Sioux City had a long talk. He was from New York state and knew some of the Company. He said they were about 4 miles ahead. About noon noticed two men on horseback going the same way and one of them said upon passing me he sent me a note into the mouth of the Big Sioux, which I read. I noticed them go on I turned for the New York state and knew some of the Company. They lost their horses one night and walked back over 50 miles and after three days search they found them. They had to ride them without saddle, bridle and only 1 halter between them, which they divided, Before they caught up with the Company they had ridden 80 miles in that way.

I had not seen either of them for several weeks and was in a hurry to catch up with the train and pass on. But I stopped at a house nearby and asked for bread which they did not have. I went to another house and was answered "No" but at the next one I got some bread and drank about a quart of milk and passed on.

I came up to the camp about 3 P.M. and was gladly received. After the teams had halted they moved on about 6 miles through the beautiful valley of the Missouri to a place called Blac Point where we stopped for the night. I slept on the ground with other men and the horses were tied to the wheels. Everyone had dinner within reach, ready at any alarm to jump up prepared for a done Indian but I didn't apprehend any danger so I got a good night's rest.

In the morning I rode ahead with Mr. Foster and Mr. Dunn about 30 miles from Sioux City. At night we were at the 8 mile house which was bought out by one of the men and had been taken up with each, ready at any alarm to jump up prepared for a done Indian but I didn't apprehend any danger so I got a good night's rest.

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Sioux City 6 days waiting for the up. It came one Thursday night through bright lights and I drove it in the dark and I intended to meet them there. As they left at night and r rating I thought I would not be the Big Sioux Ferry at 8 A.M. As it was, we got a ride a mile or two in a Government team and river was very kind to me and with any. After I left I in Indian ranch if they had seen a man that morning and they could tell if they had it in their well to fill my cans and as to another but then and I was in an Indian settlement. On talking anyone they pretended ignorant when they can talk as white man. They want to hear to the wind was missing, up and filled my cans and the least alarmed. There had been a farmer going and had a long talk. He was 42 years and knew some of the Missouri Indians. The Indians were about 8 miles I noticed two men on mile ahead and as I got on to me. "How are you Port what was my surprise to see Mr. Brown father of the Company. They are one night and walked back after three days seen they had to ride them without I and only I halter between my divided. Before they caught company they had ridden 80 say.

there were four of them for several very glad to meet them. They took me up with the train and I stopped at a house nearby bread which they did not have, their house and was answered. Then I got some bread a quart of milk and passed o the camp about 3 P.M. and ate. After the teams had been on about 6 miles through the alley of the Missouri is a place into where we stopped for the on the ground with three other soon were tied to the wheels. His gun within reach, ready to jump up prepared for a doden didn't apprehend any danger so up to its rest. On rving I rode ahead with Mr. míl. about 35 miles from night we were at the mile was caught by one of the are very nice folks and are next morning we were under 4 anxious to get to Yankton. It was good and the country can't be beat by any lands in Iowa. The Missouri and Big Sioux slope is about 30 miles long and for a great distance the banks of each river can be seen when each turns in opposite angles. As the route is near the Missouri, the width is lost in one vast level tract of beautiful land with soil from five to twenty feet deep and black as can be.

Then comes the James or Dakota River which is only so named as you come nearer that river. Nothing that separates either of the three rivers but a vast tract of beautiful land. On the bank grow Oke, Cottonwood, Walnut and Willows in some places. It runs for miles in any direction.

We crossed the James River near where a man was killed last Fall by Indians. As he was driving a team across the bridge the Indian rose up behind him and shot him dead. They had been seen near this river more often than any other point so near Yankton.

Foster was a little scared and told us to look after our arms and see that the caps were all right. Now I had not the slightest fear of being attacked. I told him I was not born Indo shot by an Indian and as he was afraid to drive I told him I would. Now if the Indians wanted our horses and wanted to kill us, they could do it as easily as not as we were obliged to ride through a dense wood of willows, tall weeds and grass. I told him I didn't believe there was an Indian within fifty miles that was hostile but as a sharp lookout and soon we got out of the woods and in sight of the long log pole place, YANKTON.

The first building that came into sight was the Capitol, a large two story building that is on a hill. The Capitol of Dakota is on the Missouri River near Yankton. For work, like the state of Washington to pick apples, and they would get on a freight train and ride an empty box car, or probably even on top of a box car, or the coal car that hauled the coal for the steam engine that pulled the train. Some of those steam engines were very big engines especially those that travelled over mountain railways, they were also used on the plains of America to pull long freight trains as many as 100 cars more or less.

During the 1930's it was common to see on most freight trains men hunting on the train.

If the freight trains stopped in a town they would get off the train, when slowed up enough to jump off and walk along the railroad tracks until the train started to move again. Then they would jump on the train again, if they were caught on the train, they were subject to arrest.

On my first train ride, I drove to Grand Island, Nebraska and bought a ticket on a passenger train to go to Denver, Colorado to visit my brother in the year of 1943. It was raining all the night, and the ticket that sat next to me said this was the first time he rode a train "inside." He said if it hadn't been raining, he would have been riding some where outside of the train probably in the coal car. Then I didn't dare to catch a nap for fear he might pick my bill.

The sound of the whistle from the steam engine during the night, I will remember the rest of my life.

by Owen Hill

The RAILROAD HOBO

The hobo, some were good and would catch a ride on a train to get somewhere, some to ride on freight train and some would ride the passenger trains too.

During the Depression years of the 1930's there were many people that wanted to get away from work, like the state of Washington to pick apples, and they would get on a freight train and ride an empty box car, or probably even on top of a box car, or the coal car that hauled the coal for the steam engine that pulled the train. Some of those steam engines were very big engines especially those that travelled over mountain railways, they were also used on the plains of America to pull long freight trains as many as 100 cars more or less.

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To rural America, especially in our Midwestern heartland, the railroad was the lifeblood of small towns. That was true in my childhood. The lumbering freight stopped at all the elevators at each hamlet and loaded grain for markets and mills. The passenger trains provided transportation . . . carried the mail . . . carried flowers for special occasions in their baggage cars.

The townfolk heard the whistle as the train came down the cut five miles out of town and knew it was soon time to money on upstairs and wait for the mail to be sorted and put in the post office boxes.

I was born in a section house in Volin, South Dakota. My grandmother Benson was a section foreman on the Great Northern and they said "Freight Number 6." These section houses were wooden structures in a Cape Cod style. Inside they were grey. The railway paint crew came through periodically and parked on the siding while paint and repair work was done.

The house was close to the track. The trains went by only a few yards from the front door, making cattle and chickens haste away from the noise.

The interior walls would be a collector's dream today. They were horizontal wooden boards, also painted grey. The downstairs floors were all hardwood. Grandma had scrubbed the kitchen so often that its floor was white. There was no electricity and we had kerosene lamps.

It had been a beautiful misty blue cookstove with much chrome trim. A fringe benefit of being a section foreman was that he received the ties which had been removed from the track for replacement. These were one of our main sources of income.

Each fall they would be dumped off by the house and cut into chunks for the overnight burning and into smaller pieces for the cooking. The wood spiles would reach almost as high as the house with an "alley" between the two stacks.

In wintertime, the living room stove was put up. The first one I remember was cast
The ones I knew were equipped with a motor. About a block down the track was the building for the pull-pull as it was sometimes called. When the section gang was working, their vehicle had to be taken off the track to leave it clear for the trains.

The section men went out in all kinds of weather. On Christmas and Thanksgiving, just the section foreman went out to patrol his track area and be sure that all was o.k. And in those days before our lightweight, weatherproof clothing, they had to bundle up with long johns, layers of sweaters, and usually bib overalls. There was a windshield on the handicap but it was really open to the elements. It was always a special treat when Grandpa came by the house at 5 p.m. and would often stop to give me a ride down to the car house.

Many of Grandpa’s crew were with him for years. One of them became foreman when grandpa retired. And he was before his time, and didn’t retire at 65, as it was World War II then and they needed men to work on the track.

Frederick Bensner, my grandfather, was a great person . . . with curly black hair, blue, blue eyes, yes, a bushy brown moustache. His track was free of weeds and always kept in tip-top shape.

The first trains I remember seeing as a little girl were the steam locomotives. Each town had its water tank the trains stopped at. The funnel was lowered and the tanks filled. There was a big depot, too, with a baggage area, waiting room and office for the depot agent. In some towns the depots were two storied and the agent lived upstairs. All the Great Northern depots were the same.

We children remember the depots because kids often went down to see the trains come in.

“Gandy Dancer” is the term of railroad laborer but I don’t remember any “gandy dancers” in my childhood. The “Gallopin’ Goose” was what we called the passenger train that had electric power. It came from Sioux Falls in the morning and back up from Yankton to Sioux Falls in the early evening. Grandma used to make the trip often to Yankton and back the same day to shop and visit her parents.

After I lived in Sioux Falls with my folks, no matter how old I was, it was always Grandpa who walked me down the track to the depot to catch the train. I knew all the old time conductors and brakemen. And as the train went by the section house, Grandma was always out on the stoop to wave goodbye to her granddaughter.

Volin, which is a very small town now with only a small building that replaced the depot, had two railroads through it back then. The Northwestern had a track that was a block away on the other side of the creek. It had a depot also. There were two elevators situated by the depot. My Grandpa Shephardson owned one that burned down when I was very young. It was down by the creek between the two depot areas where the hobos would camp.

Once – when I was too young to have descriptive memories – my Grandma Bensner, Aunt Evelyn and I came back from visiting Grandma’s brother on his ranch in the Black Hills via freight train. We didn’t ride the rails or in a box car, but rode up front in one of those old fashioned red wooden cabooses!

Railroads – trains – added so much to the development and history of our country. The drama and courage that made up the continent, the sleek coaches that succeeded them, settings for many movies and television shows and today’s Amtrak – this yet played out. Today’s energy – a future need of better fuel for us.

by June Shephardson

WORKING WITH STEAM ENGINE

The steam engine pulling a elevator

The name on the steam engine wa
were equipped with a motor. A down the track was the pull-puff as it was sometimes he section gang was working, ad to be taken off the track to the trains. men went out in all kinds of Christmas and Thanksgiving, v foreground went out to patrol and be sure that all was o.k. days before our lightweight, clothing, they had to bundle up in layers of sweaters-and rails. There was a windshield but it was really open to the always a special treat when by the house at 5 p.m. and to give me a ride down to ndpa's crew were with him for the became more than 1. And he was before his time, re at to, as it was World War v needed men to work on the mo, my grandfather, was a with curly black hair, blue, i bushy brown mustache. His of weeds and always kept in I remember seeing as a the steam-locomotives. Each ter tank the trains stopped at. i loosen and the tanks filled. g depot, too, with a baggage room and officer for the depot towns the depots were two agent lived upstairs. All the t buildings were painted grey. i remember the depots because i down to see the trains come in is the term of railroad er's remember it used in my "Gallopin' Goose" was what passenger train that had electricity e from Sioux Falls in the se up from Yankton to Sioux eving. Grandma used to from Yankton and back the op and visit her parents. in Sioux Falls with my folks, s old I was, it was always walked me down the track to ch the train. I knew all the old as and bureaucracies. And as the name of the section house, Grandma on the stoop to wave goodbye righter is a very small town with kling that replaced the depot, s through it back then. he said a track that was a block e ridge of the creek. It had a s were two elevators situated (My Grandpa Shephardson burned down when I was very own by the creek between the es where the Hobos would s was too young to have nos - my Grandma Hesser, d I come back from visiting her on his ranch in the Black train. We didn't ride the rails but rode quite royally in one himed red wooden covered ra - added so much to the d history of our country. The drama and courage that made our rails across the continent, the sleek coast-to-coast coaches that succeeded them and were the settings for many movies the decline of the railways, today's Amtrak - this drama is not yet played out. Today's energy crisis reminds us of the future need of better rail service.

For me, the trains of my childhood will always hold a special memory. For me, born in a section house with a picture of an earlier locomotive with a funnel smokestack and an insect of James J. Hill in the nearby living room, trains are very, very special.

By June Shepherdson Barnhill

WORKING WITH A STEAM ENGINE T177

The steam engine pulling an elevator dirt grader.

My grandfather, Gerald Geraldson bought a steam engine in 1911 for farm work. There were many steam engines here in the midwest that were used for farm work which included plowing, for belt work like running a threshing machine, even the power to pull a house that had special wheels under the house for moving.

The steam engine was a big and clumsy engine and weighed several tons. The one my grandfather owned was a Reeves and weighed about 30,000 pounds when the boiler was filled with water, it also had a reserve tank on the back of the engine for reserve water and on top of the water tank was a bin where reserve coal was put to fire the boiler.

My grandfather used the elevator dirt grader and built up a grade around his farm land along the Jim River, but it didn't work out too well as the river got higher than the grader that was put there to hold out the flood waters.

The plow, the steam engine pulled, was a eight bottom 14 inch plow and it was raised out of the ground on the ends with steam cylinders. The steam engine ground speed was not very fast about 2 miles an hour and took up a big area to turn on at the ends of the field.

There was always one person that had a team of horses hooked to a water wagon so they could always have a supply of water as the steam engine used a lot of water. On the water wagon was a good size water pump that had a handle on it, so when the tank on the water wagon had to be filled again the pump was operated by a person pulling the handle back and forth. The water used on my grandfather's farm was taken from the Jim River.

My Uncle Telfief Geraldson told me when they were using the engine they would have to start preparing the steam engine about 5 o'clock in the morning so the steam pressure would be high enough so they could start using the engine by 7 o'clock in the morning.

The people that used steam engines for power used coal, wood, even straw when they were threshing to heat the water in the boiler of the engine. I remember my Uncle told me, coal could be bought for $5.00 a ton. Every steam engine had a whistle on them that operated off the steam and could be heard a great distance. They used the whistle to signal for more fuel or more water. They had a code they used when the whistle was used probably 2 toots from the whistle would mean they needed water or 3 toots from the whistle meant they needed fuel for the engine.

The steam engine had flues in the fire chamber about 2 inches in diameter and about 8 feet long, the water would be in these flues and the heat from the fire box would flow through the flues to heat the water to get the steam to run the engine. Many times the flues would spring a leak, there was a door in the bottom of the fire box so they could repair the fire in the fire chamber. My uncle told me that many times they wouldn't wait very long to start repairing the flues and he said it would get very warm when repairing the flues. There was special tools they used when repairing the flues. Of course the steam would be let out so there wouldn't be any pressure and also the water would have to be drained down, so when the engine was repaired they would have to refill the boiler with water and start a new fire in the fire box.

No doubt there are many stories about the steam engine era, as for myself I don't know much about steam engines, all I know what has been told to me.

By Owen Hill

YANKTON'S RAILROAD T178

It seems unjust that a railroad system that was so important to the development of the city of Yankton would be reduced to one railroad line that struggles to operate one
train a week each day over its lines from Sioux City to Mitchell, the route of the Dakota Southern, Yankton’s first railroad.

Very early in its history, Yankton started to attract a railroad into the city. Yankton that can be citizens and powers that he felt that with a railroad into their city, Yankton would be the leading shipping point on the Missouri River.

Prior to the opening of traffic to Yankton on February 3, 1873, almost a decade was spent trying to attract a railroad into Yankton. Railroad construction was expensive. It was difficult for small outlying frontier towns to promise enough profit to attract the railroads.

Business people in Yankton were becoming desperate because all of their efforts to bring a railroad into Yankton had failed.

In early 1871 the disappointed people of Yankton designed a plan that they thought would bring them their railroad they so desperately wanted. They organized their own company and voted from their own community. This action on March 17, 1871, was the beginning of the Dakota Southern, the first railroad into South Dakota. The Dakota Southern was incorporated April 1, 1872.

Construction of the first line of the Dakota Southern was begun at Sioux City in 1872. They built 29.6 miles of railroad to Vermillion, South Dakota. In 1873 the company extended the line to Yankton, a distance of 20.20 miles.

The original operating equipment of the Dakota Southern consisted of three locomotives, forty-five freight cars, two baggage cars and two coaches. In 1878, a locomotive and twenty-five freight cars were purchased. The roads operated a daily passenger train to Sioux City requiring three hours and twenty minutes for the run each way. The trains left for Sioux City in the morning and was back in Yankton at five in the afternoon.

The arrival of the Dakota Southern in Yankton soon made Yankton a Missouri River port, replacing that respect. Shipments of lumber and other supplies went on the railroad and more the river boats for shipment same was true in reverse fo streams were transferred to shipment to the east.

On October 30, 1879, the D. railroad was consolidated with the Pembina Railway Company and Sioux City and Dakota Rail.

On February 22, 1881, the 1 Dakota Railroad became part of the Milwaukee and Saint Paul Milwaukee Road and it was kno.

city of Yankton well until bar it to shut down its lines in Fe. In 1903 the Milwaukee pa was located at Ripton & Burks June 20, 1904, a huge fire com the building down. A strong fire to surrounding freight thought at the time that the fire by smoke which were numerou.

The Milwaukee operated wooden round house at a po Street near eighth street. To being torn down at the time in April 1985.

On July 7th, 1909, an article Press & Dakotan carried the story for Sioux City, or Va changing at Elk Point. Engin up by the issuance of an ex例如.

ex-Senator A.B. Kittredge’s Martin Westly who had a jud the railroad for $6,148.78. To day the railroad could appeal no appeal was taken and the sith, a deputy marshal can decide the case.

The attached engine was to trains out, but that made a Deputy Marshal Jerry Carlet
Yankton soon made Yankton the leading Missouri River port, replacing Sioux City in that respect. Shipments of farm equipment, lumber and other supplies arrived in Yankton on the railroad and were transferred to the river boats for shipment upstream. The same was true in reverse for products upstream. Streaming were transferred to the railroad for shipment to the east.

The first line of the Dakota Southern railroad was consolidated with the Sioux City and Pembina Railway Company to form the Sioux City and Dakota Railroad Company. On February 22, 1881, the Sioux City and Dakota Railroad became part of the Chicago, Milwaukee and Saint Paul Railroad. The Milwaukee Road as it was known, served the city of Yankton well until bankruptcy forced it to shut down its lines in February of 1980. In 1982 the Milwaukee passenger station was located at Eighth & Burleigh streets. On June 20, 1984, a huge fire completely burned the building down. A strong wind spread the fire to surrounding freight cars. It was thought at the time that the fire was started by hobos which were numerous at that time.

The Milwaukee operated a two stall wooden round house at a point on Burleigh Street near eighth street. This structure is being torn down at the time of this writing in April 1985.

On July 7th, 1969, an article in the Yankton Press & Dakotan carried the story of a train bound for Sioux City, or Yankton by interchanging at Elk Point. Engine 771 was held up by the issuance of an executive, secured by ex-Senator A.B. Kittredge acting for Mrs. Martin Weyly who had a judgement against the railroad for $6,148.79. This was the last day the railroad could appeal the case and as no appeal was taken and the money net in sight, the attorney decided on drastic actions. The attached engine was to pull the 12:15 trains out, but that made no difference to Deputy Marshal Jerry Catron, who served the papers. The 771 was the particular engine he had taken a fancy to.

Railroad officials "got purple above the collar," but Deputy Catron just smiled cheerfully. Railroad officials had to get another engine and did so within a couple of hours.

About this time the deputy marshal wanted to put the engine in the round house for him. They laughed at him and told him to do it himself. Later on however they complied with his request.

The second railroad to appear on the Yankton railroad scene was the Dakota Central Railway Company. This company constructed a line from Centerville, South Dakota to Yankton a distance of 28.5 miles in 1885. It later became a part of the Chicago and Northwestern System.

The Chicago Northwestern never did extend its lines beyond Yankton, but did operate a spur jointly with the Chicago Milwaukee and Saint Paul to the old Cement plant approximately five miles west of Yankton. The ruins of which exist at the time of this writing.

The northern Western had its station on the corner of Eighth street and Walnut in 1902. On May 6, 1980, a fire broke out in the old Northern Western building and destroyed it.

This round house was of brick construction, had two stalls and a 70 foot turn table. It was located at the end of Linn Street where twelfth street would intersect.

The Great Northern operated a three stall round house of wood construction in the area where the Cimgl Packing Company stands.

The last railroad to enter Yankton was the Sioux Falls, Yankton and Southwestern Railway. It was opened to the public October 19, 1903. For fifteen years prior to this date this project had been before the people of Sioux Falls in its newspaper.

On the 27th of September 1894, a meeting of important citizens met in Sioux Falls at the request of Senator R.F. Pattigrew. Out of this meeting the Sioux Falls, Yankton and South Western Railway Company was organized. On the 31st day of October 1895 the Argus Leader announced the ground Contracting had been let by Senator Pattigrew. On October 19, 1895 the first train traveled to Sioux Falls from Yankton. The train was a celebration special and consisted of six coaches. It left Yankton at 8:30 A.M. and arrived in Sioux Falls at 11:00 A.M. One of the largest celebrations of that time was held.

On Monday October 23rd, the Great Northern Railroad took over the management of this line.

A 1909 edition of the Yankton Press and Dakotan published the time tables of the Great Northern showed two trains each way to Sioux Falls and back.

In July 1963 the Great Northern was given permission to discontinue passenger trains numbers 51 and 52 between Yankton and Osceola, South Dakota, this included Sioux Falls. They operated a mixed train (a freight train that would include a coach) until September 30, 1958 at which time they discontinued any passenger service between Sioux Falls and Yankton.

The Great Northern removed its rails from Yankton to Sioux Falls in the early 1980's, removing another era in Yankton's rail history.

A ninetean hundred two Yankton City directories show the Great Northern Depot located at the East end of third street. It was moved to C. 1586 to a location on second street between Douglas and Capital streets. In 1978 the Yankton County Historical Society purchased the building and moved it to its present location on the Museum grounds in Westside park, Yankton, South Dakota.

by E.S. Maxfelt

GAVINS POINT DAM
T179

Much of America's history can be traced in the flow of its water. Our country's untamed rivers were both barriers and passageways for the early explorers, as well as nurturing our greatest cities. The rivers were a source of opportunity... and of destruction.

This is the story of man's attempt to control the mighty rivers of America, the monumental effort to redirect their power into beneficial uses.

The Gavins Point Dam is located four
miles west of Yankton, South Dakota. Govins Point Dam was designed and constructed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. It is a federal project that belongs to you, the citizens of the United States.

The construction of Govins Point spanned more than three years. The closure of the Dam in 1955 was a historic milestone in the Missouri River basin's flood control water-resources development program.

Govins Point Dam is one of six main stem dams constructed on the Missouri River by the Corps of Engineers as part of the famous Pick-Sloan plan. Developed by Major General Lewis A. Pick of the Corps and W.G. Sloan of the Bureau of Reclamation, the Pick-Sloan plan was designed to control floods, assist downstream navigation, supply water for irrigation and municipal use, conserve fish and wildlife, and to generate power, and improve water quality downstream.

Authorized by the flood control act of 1944, Govins Point is the smallest of the main stem projects, but it plays a key role in the successful operation of the plan.

Govins point stores and reuses water released from Fort Randall Dam which lies seventy miles to the northwest. Govins Point Dam minimizes bank erosion and regulates the flows in the river downstream. It does this by smoothing the surges from power generation in the larger dams upstream.

When the corps began exploratory drilling, it was believed that the dam would be built across the Missouri River from a point on the South Dakota side. This land, owned by an Irish immigrant, farmer, and businessman named Michael J. Govins, was known as Govins Point.

The final selection for the site was actually two miles downstream where the south anchor of the dam would be historic Calumet Bluff of Lewis and Clark fame. However, the original name, Govins Point Dam, was unchanged. Before actual construction could begin, the government had to purchase acres of bottomland. Some small growths, such as the Marshall Phillips house, were moved to higher ground. During one such move, the resident followed along to make sure that bird, whose nest was in his porch, was left undisturbed. The house, bird, and nest all made the move safely. Another house which was moved can be seen today south and west of the Weig and recreational area.

Some buildings were removed or demolished on site. The John Mitchell farmed once stood on what is now the bottom of the lake. Mr. Mischke's daughter married Sol Walker, whose valley view housing development is located on the Nebraska side of Lewis and Clark Lake.

Still others, doubting that their houses would soon be covered by a lake, stayed until the waters were lapping at their doorsteps. But others who had been ravaged by floods over the years moved willingly. Since the six main stem dams were constructed, the floods have been virtually eliminated. The corps estimates that the dams have prevented more than $500 million dollars in flood damages.

Many of the trees in the area were removed while others were left in the lake bottom to serve as fish shelters. Construction of the huge earth-fill structure began with ground breaking ceremonies on May 19th, 1952. Nearly 8,000 people joined Nebraska Governor Val Peterson and South Dakota Governor Sigurd Anderson to watch the ceremonies from Calumet Bluff.

General Pick set off on a charge of dynamite to begin. Among the many speakers that day was Chan Gurney of Yankton, who was, at that time, a Senator from South Dakota. It was largely through Senator Gurney's perseverance that the initial two million dollar funding allocation was made, despite resistance in the House of Representatives. It would be more than three years before the grand vision of the Govins Point Dam would become a reality.

Actual construction was underway in the summer of '52 on the two bridges of the access road. The access road built from stockpiled gravel is now part of Nebraska highway 121. Just prior to the start of construction, the Corps, the construction contractor, and the Department of Interior, met to reach a conclusion regarding the presence of a large piece window. This building burned down in 1952. The cause of the fire remains a mystery.

Within six weeks after the groundbreaking ceremony, an embankment of earth had been pushed across a small island and closed off the south chute of the river. Chalkrock and dirt from the bluff were carried to the embankment on huge bottom dump trucks. But the next stage of construction seemed to prove very difficult. By now, three-fourths of the water flowed between the two islands creating an extremely powerful current. Extending the embankment would cause the forceful river to entirely wash away the other island. After much study, the corps of engineers decided to construct a diversion dike upstream in an attempt to divert the flow of water to the other side of the island. This first dike forced the water to the side of the small island where the water beat violently but harmlessly against the South Dakota shore.

With the construction of a small second dike, the dramatic seven-week struggle to block the middle channel of the raging river came to an end. The river was under control, and dam building could begin. By the first anniversary of the ground breaking, the embankment was 850 feet wide at the base and 80 feet wide at the working level. It extended from the Nebraska side to the larger island.

Giant dump trucks, bulldozers, and other machinery maneuvered on embankments just a few days from tumbling into the river. Clearing had begun in the area. Massive tractors with moved across the area that covered by the lake.

A major portion of Calumet being carved and shaped to dam's power plant. Counties and chalk were removed from and spillway excavations to trenches to landfill areas. The work progressed quickly use of extraordinary equipment. Electric saws of which, by sliced away the bluff. Undertow of cutter head was used to d. Chalk.

To this day when the lake these saw marks can easily fit into the rock wall. By August embankment extended to halfway between the larger South Dakota shore. With a much tamer Missouri beneath it, the corps of engineers next two years working on the power plant structure. It was concrete. Massive pillars feet tall were erected on cantilevered into the north, the massive structures of the spillway took 70 feet high like a row of Missouri River Valley. Pouring each 30 feet wide and 40 feet 25 tons, would be installed here. The sheer width of the dam would be cut away to water to flow to the dam. Turbines, no big they would be Yankton, bridge ship.

By June 1955, the spillway road across the top of the dam the end of the embankments. As work was being on concrete structures, workers earth and chalk stockpiled plant and spillway excavation the final closure. Working rows and the dam, draglines 100,000 cubic yards per hour. Working around the area transported more that cubic yards of earth fill in t. Buckets.

At it a sticky, 106 de afternoon on July 30th, 1955 began to gather along the shoreline. Many people stayed night watching the progress until, at 4:00 a.m. on July 31 complete. By mid-morning, came into position where the Missouri River flowed through the spills miles 5,000 cubic feet a second. With the water leaving the point where water was going way, but no attempt was made beyond that level until the sp. In September 1956, officials finished construction and General F.G. Calloway, the C. River Division Engineer, turned on the disconnect switch g, first commercial power at Govins Dam.
machinery maneuvered carefully on the embankments just a few dangerous feet away from tumbling into the river. Meanwhile, clearing had begun in the area just above the dam. Massive tractorrs with clearing blades maneuvered the trees that would later be covered by the lake.

A major portion of Calumet Bluff was being carved and shaped to accommodate the dam's power plant. Countless loads of earth and chalk were removed from the powerhouse and spillway excavations and carried by trucks to landfill areas.

The work progressed quickly thanks to the use of extraordinary equipment such as the electric coal saw which, like a chain saw, sliced away the bluff. Underwater, a new type of cutter head was used to dredge away the chalk.

To this day when the level is down, those marks can easily be identified in the rock walls. By August 1933, the dam embankment extended to more than halfway between the larger island and the South Dakota shore.

With a much tamer Missouri River flowing beneath it, the corps of engineers spent the next two years working on the spillway and power plant structure. It was a time of steel and concrete. Massive pillars of concrete 110 feet tall were erected on Calumet Bluff as part of the powerhouse intake structure. To the north, the massive abutments of the 317,000-cubic-yard spillway were completed. They stood 70 feet high like a row of sentries over the Missouri Valley watershed. They stood each 30 feet wide and 40 feet high, weighing 22 tons, would be installed between the piers. The fixed gates, made for the dam, were opened for the first time on June 55, 1935. They were tested in 40 miles of water, and the turbines, so big they would not fit across the Yankton bridge.

By June 1935, the spillway was ready. A large boat on the top of the dam finally reached the end of the embankments.

As work was being completed on the concrete structures, workers began hauling earth and chalk stockpiled from the powerhouse and spillway excavations to the site of the final closure. Working from the shoreline and the dam, drags lined more than 1000 cubic yards of earth and chalk each hour. Working around the clock, they eventually transported more than seven million cubic yards of fill all in six of eight yard buckets.

It was a sticky, 106 degree Saturday afternoon on July 30th, 1935 when the crews began to gather along the South Dakota shore, and braved through the night watching the progress by floodlight until, at 6:30 a.m. on July 31st, closure was complete. By mid-morning, 7000 people came to officially celebrate the event, and the river flowed through the spillway approximately 8,000 cubic feet a second.

The Lewis and Clark Lake was filled to the point where water was going over the spillway, but no attempt was made to flood the lake beyond that level.

In September 1936, officials celebrated the first energy generation from the dam. Major General G.R. Galloway, the Corps of the Missouri River Division Engineer, turned the crank to close the dam, switching the first commercial power at Gavins Point Dam. Joining him at the ceremony were Robert Roper, power plant superintendent, and J.C. Patterson, area engineer. One year later, August 18th, 1937, the project was completed.

Nearly three decades later, the Gavins Point Dam stands as a monument to the foresight and courage of the thousands of people involved with the project. The dam embankment is 850 feet thick at its base and stands 74 feet high. It contains more than 7 million cubic yards of rolled earth. The concrete spillway is wider than two football fields.

The power plant enclosed three generators and 14 massive gates, that were erected by giant cranes which control the spillway flows. Every year, more than 600 million kilowatt-hours of electrical energy are generated and distributed throughout the Missouri River basin for use by industry, farms, homes, and municipalities.

More than 30 million dollars was spent on the project. Although the dam was built for many functional purposes, Gavins Point Dam has become one of the most popular recreational sites in the Midwest.

During the summer, there is enough water in Lewis and Clark Lake to cover more than 460,000 acres of land with a foot of water. The lake covers more than 33,000 acres and extends 25 miles upstream providing 90 miles of shoreline with South Dakota to the north and Nebraska to the south.

Nature lovers spend many peaceful hours on the lake, which covers 700 acres of the best residential development. In harmony with the area, private homes are sprouting up on both sides of the lake. Although it’s the smallest main stem dam of the Missouri River, Gavins Point plays a crucial role in the operation of the Pick-Sloan development plan.

By recapenting the heavy flows from the Fort Randall dam upstream, Gavins Point assures a steady release of water to provide consistent navigation on the river all the way to St. Louis, Missouri. It also provided bank protection, steady recreational water, and a continuous amount of electrical energy.

By itself, Gavins Point Dam provides enough electricity to meet the needs of almost 30,000 homes. It helps maintain water quality, encourages fish propagation, recreational development, and protects wildlife and other public concerns, including irrigation and water supply. Nonetheless, the original need for flood control still maintains the highest priority. The Pick-Sloan Plan is directed toward the operation and maintenance. The dam is operated by civilian employees of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

One recent addition to the project is the Lewis and Clark Lake motor center which was completed in 1976. From its location high atop Calumet Bluff, you can look up to a spectacular panorama of the dam, the river, and the valley below.

In a recreational or functional way, Gavins Point Dam has touched the lives of many people. It’s an important link in the control of the Missouri River, and, as such, an important link in the history of our country.

by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

MERIDIAN HIGHWAY BRIDGE

T 180

At an informal gathering June 1, 1919, it was suggested that a bridge might be built with local capital, independent of outside interest or a large grant. Some expressed the belief that a wagon bridge would not cost more than $5000.

It was generally agreed, however, that if the citizens of Yankton would freely put their money into it, they could build the bridge themselves.

The very next day Dowling, a department store owner and Heaston, head of the First National Bank of Yankton, carried a subscription pledge blank around town and got preliminary promises of $892,000 from just ten signers. That night, at a meeting of the Monday Evening Club (a weekly public forum which featured supper and2scilltilla-

ing conversation, but no doors, officers, or membership lists), the bridge idea was dis-


cussed further, all of which added to the growing momentum. Other organizational meetings followed, and on July 5, 1919, a corporation charter was granted to the Meridian Highway Bridge Company of Yankton, with Deluos Butler Gurley as president.

Gurney, whose combined seed and nursery business was developing into the city's leading industry, had become so enthused, he took three months leave from his own firm to devote the summer to the effort. He quickly gathered a list and prepared pledge quotas for various Yankton citizens, and personally called them to a meeting to reveal his investment plans for each of them. As it turned out, everyone agreed to the other fellow's quota, but few, if any, were satisfied with their own. At a second argumentative session, Gurney actually pulled out a set of boxing gloves and told the participants that if differences couldn't be settled by any other way, maybe fisticuffs would offer a solution. Apparently the idea of pugilistic confronting was the proper gimmick to break down the serious overtones and reticent attitudes. Frowns turned to smiles, and eleven basic pledges were signed as the nucleus for the bridge financial campaign.

In 1924 the Meridian Highway Bridge - costing $1,200,000 - a double-deck design with movable lift spans — was officially dedicated. Mrs. D.B. Gurley drove the first official automobile, a Buick sedan, across the bridge at 10 a.m. The cost was $5 (50 cents for car and driver).

In 1947 the City of Yankton bought the bridge from the private stockholders for the sum of $700,000. According to Nancy Gurley, this price was not much more than the par value of the stock.

The slogan was raised, "Toll Free by '35," and it came true. The bridge was paid for and then given to the States of South Dakota and Nebraska.

by permission of Dale Lewis of the Dakota West Magazine

(See photo next page.)
The bridge when completed in 1924.

The Meridian highway bridge under construction in early 1930's.
ORGANIZATIONS

Add Brucks, Burney Waley, Alice Pooleton, Emma Edgerton, Harry Hinman, Jessie Matthesen, Sallie Ziehach, Anna Alney, Rose Matthesen, and Mr. Murphy.

Yankton "Belles" of the late 1800's. Lucy Dewey, Corrine Bruce, Nellie Burns, Mary McVay, Rose Matthesen, Mattie McVay.
The Legion Auxiliary was organized by Mrs. J.S. Meyern, District Committeewoman. She installed Mrs. Arthur Junker as the first president, and the charter was applied for January 5, 1936. Charter members were: Mrs. Archer Bly, Mrs. Sherman Collett, Mrs. Roy Hills, Mrs. Arthur Junker, Mrs. Ola Odland, Mrs. Oscar Olson, Mrs. Eddie Olson, Miss Emma Olson (Erickson), Mrs. James Ryken, Mrs. George Smith, Mrs. Clinton Thorne, Mrs. George Van Oedel.

The purpose of the auxiliary was to help the Legion Post in their work, to aid the hospitalized or disabled veteran and his dependents and to help the Legion Post honor the war veterans. Each year the auxiliary has made wreaths and marched with the Legion in their ceremonies on Memorial Day at the local cemeteries. The unit sells poppies and articles made by disabled veterans, helps with Christmas parties for the veterans at the Human Services Center, sponsors a poppy poster contest at the local school, and participates in the Girl’s State program.

Community service programs have been the clearing and improvement of the Gayville City Park, sponsoring nursing classes, first aid classes, preschool health and vaccination clinics, and, at one time, supporting a Cub Scout group. The American Legion Auxiliary strives to uphold their creed: “service above self to community, state, and nation.”

by Eileen Van Oedel

COUNTRY CLUB OF WILLOW DALE

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There is an area of the city of Yankton known as the Willow Dale District. It lies in the James River Valley, in the center of which stands the District Number 3 schoolhouse with a radius of approximately one and a quarter miles.

A group of ten farm ladies living within this area occasionally met to celebrate each other’s birthday. While the social activities of these gatherings were delightful, the group felt they could make their entertainment more enjoyable than just chatting. The group was composed of Misses, Hickey, Johnson, Ben Schlaffer, Robert Yaggie, William Semple, Richard Ducrex, William Boll, Wallace Stimson, William Johnson, and Mrs. Lena Sickman.

The date was November 12, 1912, when they met at the Joe Sickman home as a birthday surprise on Mrs. Sickman, and if the surprise was a success, or as often happens, the long-lasting, far reaching result was not, for this small group of neighbors was to become the nucleus of a charitable organization for women of many miles around for almost three-quarters of a century and still lives on, although now changed in procedure. It was the suggestion of Mrs. Johnson that the group form a conventional club with regular meetings and rules with charity as their goal. Formal rules were discussed and adopted. Mrs. Johnson, President; Mrs. Schlaffer Vice President; Mrs. William James, Secretary.

The club was to be neither a political group. Anyone living in Willow Dale area was eligible to the primary purpose for forming it to help the needy, it was voted organization, the “Helping Hand,” used under this name for only a week in July of the following year voted to change the name to the Club.” Seventeen years later, Oct the club was registered at the County Court House under its name.

The meetings were to be open hymn, “Blest be the Tie That Bind” role became flexible over the years substituting by other fits “America” or the Flag Salute, “hymn of all the meetings,” “God Bless You Me Again.”

The hostess of each meeting was a two assistant. As the membership it became necessary to increase of assistants. The lunch was to be three items. Should the fourth it the penalty was one dollar. As in the following seven years, the test was becoming a contest to ti reached the borderline of a sum resulting in an increase to a penalty.

As it was set at a five cent some of which was set aside for Twenty years later this was changed for dues. Anyone who this obligation forfeited the right site.

A prize was given for a suitable the club. This little rhyme was taught Mrs. Box. It has been repeated i the group at the end of the bus throughout the long years “Country Club, rain or shine, yo friend and I’ll bring mine.” Sure jingle was not meant to solid membership. From a group of seven members in its first eight expanded to a total membership ten years from its inception, an eight years.

When the membership reached mark it was voted to extend the for the second time. What was Willow Dale District was exten boundary two miles east of the - taking in Minning Hill, reaching north of Old High-way 60 miles stretching west to the boundary City limits.

It appears that it the new broad no significance, for new member to come. When it became neede to board, boxes, pallets or anything else that could serve as a seat, the group seek meeting weekly quarters where Community Hall (District No. 3 S Grove and Howard Schoolhouse Meeting House and doors to the group.

Special meetings were also in areas gone areas and parks; White Sickman’s, and Magister’s gro had been a meeting place; Nutter’s Forest Park in west Yank Park in Minning Hill, Miller’s (now gone) near Yankton, Wildwo
TRY CLUB OF LOW DALE

area east of the city of Yankton Willow Dale District. It lies in er Valley, in the center of which istric Number 3 schoolhouse of approximately one and a s farm ladies living within this for very small business would be the case each ay. While the sociability of s was gratifying, the group felt ng something more worthwhile. The group was composed of ruth McPherson, Bertha Neckel, a, William Sample, Richard m Ball, Wallace Shipton, Wil- ifield Jones, and Mrs. Lena

as November 12, 1912, when he Joe Sickman, the chairman of the c- is Mrs. Sickman, and if the nt proved a failure, as an often-iast, far reaching res small group of neighbors was was thus formed. The group gathered in a conventional club with as and rules with charity as mative rules were discussed and adopted. Mrs. Johnson was elected President; Mrs. Schlesfi Vice President; and Mrs. William James, Secretary and Treasurer.

The club was to be neither a religious nor a political group. Anyone living within the Willow Dale area was eligible to join. Since the primary purpose for forming the club was to help the needy, it was voted to call the organization, the "Helping Hand." It continua under this name for only eight months in July of the following year, the group voted to change the name to the "Country Club." Seven years later, October, 1919, the club was registered at the Yankton County Court House under its own name.

The meetings were to be opened with the hymn, "Bless be the Tie That Binds." This rule became flexible over the years and was substituted by other fitting hymns, "America," or the Flag Salute. The closing hymn of all the meetings was, "God be With You Till We Meet Again.

The hostess of each meeting was to have two assistants. As the membership increased, it became necessary to increase the number of assistants. The lunch was to be limited to three items. Should the fourth item appear, the penalty was one dollar. As time passed in the following years, the three-item rule was becoming a contest to see if it reached the borderline of a small luncheon, resulting in an increase to five dollars per person.

The dues were set at five cents per month, so that the membership was not concentrated. Twenty years later this was changed to a yearly date for dues. Anyone delinquent in this matter was considered to have dropped from the list with the club.

A bylaw was given for a suitable slogan for the club. This little rhyme won the prize for Mrs. Box. It has been repeated in unison by the group at the end of the business session throughout the long years of its existence: "Country Club, rate o' shine, you be your friend and I'll bring mine." Surely this little jingle was not meant to stimulate new membership. From a growth of thirty-five new members in its first eight months, it expanded to a total membership of sixty in ten years from its inception, and seventy in eighteen years.

When the membership reached the fifty mark it was voted to extend the boundary line for the second time. What began as the Willow Dale District was extended to a new boundary two miles east of the James River, taking in Mission Hill, reaching one mile north of Old Highway 50 into Wahsto and swung west to the boundary of Yankton City limits.

It appears that the new boundary line bore no significance, for new members continued to come. When it became necessary to resort to honorary names, past members of the club that could serve as a seat, the group was forced to seek meeting quarters elsewhere. The Community Hall (District No. 3 Schoolhouse), Grove and Howard Schoolhouse and the Mission Hill Church basement opened their doors to the club.

Summer meetings were occasionally held in area groves and parks; White's, Sample's, Sickman's, and Magorian's groves. The annual summer family picnics were held in Forester Park in 1939, a picnic at Longpark in Mission Hill, Donaldson's Park (now gone) near Yankton, Wildwood Park on James River, and at Community Hall in Willow Dale.

As the membership grew, also did the treasury, but the minimal doses of five cents monthly could not permit the charity for which the club was organized. Their first act of charity did not occur until one year after its inception when it made a five dollar donation to each the Yankton Sacred Heart Hospital and the Sioux Falls Children's Home. These two institutions were yearly recipients for the most of over sixty years of the club's remembrances.

The "Penny March," a feature of every meeting, was perhaps the first of fund-raising methods. It became necessary to increase this slow method of financing to one cent for every member of each month's age to the fifteenth year. Still this could not meet the needs for charity as hoped for.

The "Fishing Fund" furnished Merriment as well as a very small income. It cost ten cents to fish for items in twenty-five cent range that each member contributed. The annual Christmas "Grab Bag" was just a merry way of saying, "Greetings." Bag items were limited in price to twenty-five cents.

The club lived up to its original name of "The Helping Hand." Their list of assistance to the needy covered many areas of distress from illness and death to flood and fire victims, and to the hungry and the cold. But those more involved emergencies occurred. Disaster Fund was well on its way to financing, which meant hundreds of hours of hard labor by a group of many working together.

The club's families were remembered on all occasions. The "Thank You" boxes were sent to the overseas young men, blankets were given to the sick, a 125th birthday, wedding and greeting cards were sent as suited the occasion. Contributions were regularly made to the March of Dimes, Red Cross, Heart Fund, Polio Fund and other worthy organization.

A fifty dollar donation was given to the ambulance fund.

Every conceivable means to increase the treasury was tried. Bake sales were held in Yankton stores. Card parties and dances were held in area halls. Home talent plays were staged. The ladies sold greeting cards. They canvassed for subscriptions for the Dakota Farmer Magazine. Members were asked to submit favorite recipes for the completion of a cookbook. One hundred books were published which sold for one dollar. The remaining unused few were later sold for thirty-five cents each.

On being granted the use of Community Hall by the city in 1920's, the Club furnished it completely for their parties and their meetings. The catfish dinners and oyster stew suppers were favorite menus with the public. These were served for thirty-five cents each.

"The Spring "Easter Apron" sale was an annual affair. In the first years of this project, forty yards of gingham or percale and twenty-five yards of toweling were purchased and made ready for sale. By 1930 when the membership had greatly increased to over sixty members, these yardage amounts were increased to double. A quilt was pieced and sold at auction. This item plus three of the aprons bolstered the sagging treasury by nine dollars.

Perhaps the greatest achievement in all the club's worthy efforts was carried out in 1929 and '28 when this group of dedicated women completely furnished a room at Sacred Heart Hospital and donated an extra one hundred dollars for all the linens for the room through the coming years.

A gift of one hundred dollars was presented to the hospital in 1975 for a Christmas tree with all the trimmings to be placed in the main lobby, and as late as 1980 the small group of twelve ladies presented a fifty dollar gift to the 4-H Club.

Although the membership is greatly reduc ed, it still meets on the last Thursday of each month as was established in the original rules 73 years ago.

They now meet for an afternoon of sociability and cards. No longer do they carry out the taxing projects of fund-raising on an extensive scale, but they have never lost sight of the goal for which the Club was organized. All the financial contributions are laid away in the lavender and old handkerchiefs of ten note lades and five cent duds.

by Shirley Walpole

CRAMER - KENYON HERITAGE HOME

Heritage Home, an outstanding example of Queen Anne architecture, was built in 1886, when Dick Cramer and Queenie Kenyon commemorates Yankton being the first ter ritorial capital. The Vermillion State Preserva tion Society and the Heritage Home Foundation maintain Queen Anne home in the state of South Dakota.

James H. Teller, an attorney and Secretary of Dakota Territory 1883-1886, built this house and was living here in 1885 when Mayor of Yankton. He left in 1900 and later became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Colorado.

Nelson J. Cramer, an attorney and his wife, Alice Bullfinch, came to Yankton in 1872 and bought this house in 1890 and decorated it in the style of the era. He niece. Mrs. Esther Kenyon inherited the property, and in 1900 moved to Yankton to reside with her husband Herbert A. Kenyon and their children Carle ton and Jean.

After Mrs. Kenyon was deceased in 1967, and Mr. Kenyon in 1972, Heritage Homes was then organized through the Yankton Bi- Centennial Committee in 1973 to purchase this house from the Kenyon heirs and preserve it for posterity.

Features of this Period Home include heavy double doors in the front entrance; high coved ceilings; sliding doors in the parlors with elaborate carved wood screens above the curtain poles and in front of the bay window. Underfloor heating and electric chan dallers and the original imported wallpaper in the parlor. The patina of the woodwork in the house reflects faithful polishing, through the years (so Varnish) and the doorknobs, hinges and hardware should be noted. The four fireplaces have imported tile and a variety of carved mantelpieces.

Oil paintings, done by Mrs. Cramer, hang on the walls. The parlor set and other furnishings throughout the house reflect the gracious living of the 1890's and the care given this home by the Kenyon heirs during

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Dakota Lodge No. 1 of Odd Fellows, instituted here in May 1870 is considered to be the first Odd Fellows Lodge in Dakota Territory, although a lodge was organized in Cheyenne, now in Wyoming, then part of Dakota territory, in 1868 and placed under the jurisdiction of Colorado.

The charter of Dakota Lodge No. 1 issued by the Grand Lodge of the United States, now the Sovereign Grand Lodge, is dated May 2, 1870, but the first has been continuously active since then.

The Odd Fellows order in what is now South Dakota grew along the Missouri River, as did some of the first settlements in Dakota Territory. Echo Lodge No. 2 was formed at Fort Randall in 1872, Vermillion Lodge No. 3 the same year, Elk Point Lodge No. 4 in 1873, and Humboldt Lodge No. 4 at Yankton, Northern Light Lodge No. 6 at Fargo (now North Dakota) and Springfield Lodge No. 7 all in 1874. Instituting officer for these early lodges was T.J. Kinsed, Sioux City, district deputy grand sire for Iowa.

Humboldt Lodge No. 5 merged with Dakota Lodge No. 1 in 1886. Of the other early lodges, only those at Vermillion and Elk Point are still active. Charters at Fort Randall, a frontier fort, and Fargo were taken up many years ago, and the Springfield lodge merged with Dakota Lodge No. 1 in 1887.

Correspondence between the early regarding information of a Dakota Grand Lodge was begun in 1873, and in September 1875, William Blatt, early Yankton grocer, attended the session of the Grand Lodge of the United States in Indianapolis, Indiana, and successfully lobbied for a charter for a territorial Grand Lodge, although there were only seven lodges in the territory, and formation of a new Grand Lodge normally required 10.

Blatt was also commissioned a special deputy grand sire to institute the Dakota Grand Lodge, which he did in Yankton October 15, 1875. Ezra Miller, Elk Point was elected the first grand master and Blatt the representative to the Grand Lodge of the United States. The next four Grand Masters were Norman Learned and Blatt, both of Yankton; L.D.F. Poore of Springfield; and Zina Richy of Yankton.

Since 1890 when Richy's term ended, there have been three grand masters from Yankton; Fred S. Vaughn, 1927-28, Marvin Scott, 1966-67, and Reuben Bentz, 1977-78. Yankton Encampment No. 2 was chartered April 5, 1975, and this past year has merged with Vermillion Encampment No. 38.

Fountain Rebekeh Lodge No. 12 was formed May 20, 1897; Canton Yankton Lodge No. 13 (now Canton Southeast No. 12) Patriarchs Militant was formed August 16, 1921; and the Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant was formed in July 1932.

Members of the Fountain Rebekeh Lodge No. 12 who have been presidents of the Rebekeh Assembly of South Dakota were: Mrs. Zina Richy, Ida Finbeck, and Mrs. Perry Reed.

The Ladies Auxiliary Patriarchs Militant has had the following as state president: Mrs. Richy 1928-29; Mrs. Frank Lings 1937-38; Mrs. Ben Norinsky 1957-58; Mrs. Elwood Sasser, Vermillion 1964-65; and Marvin Scott 1972-74.

Yankton Theta Rho Club No. 22 was instituted January 3, 1966, with 14 members. This is a Rebekeh sponsored Club for girls 10-21 years of age. Advisor of the club for the first six years was Mrs. Edith Clausen assisted by Mrs. Marvin Scott; Mrs. Scott is now in her 17th year as advisor of the group. This group has had five presidents to the State Theta Rho Assembly namely: Karen Block Sheffleider, Cheryl Krenos, Robin Swenson, Cindy Anderson, and Donna Stuen.

Dakota Lodge No. 1 purchased the lodge building at 500 Douglas Avenue on November 25, 1900, at a bid price of $5,001. The building was the first Yankton County Court House.

Noted avenues of Dakota Lodge through the years have been: N.J. Cattell, A.A. James, E.A. Norton, Newton; Learned, Joe Fry, Shawnee; J. D. Keeler; H.W. Pike, Fred Schnuber, Zina Richy, Norman Lear-

ness James Kingsbery, B.S. Tyler, Warren Osborne, J.H. Dix, D.B. Wilson, Isaac Piles, C.W. Roberts, Samuel S. Boyle, M.K. Ten-


vey F. Thomas, H. Hoisenberger, J. Edberg, I.A. Lindstrom, C. Ophiem, R.J. Jeffers, W.H. Brown, Arthur Ratlaff, Harry Her-


n, W.P. Eymu, Jens Sorensen, Milan Kortber, Victor Bennett, Andrew Ericke, Jacob P. Hass, H.A. Syverud, Ben Norin-

sky, Clarence Cowman, Arthur Ratlaff, E.F. Castefeld, John H. Harder, Wm. Shy, Don L. Gager, Ralph M. Pike, Ignatius Goeiden, Walt Syllinsen, Al King, Arnold Bahn, Don King, Elver Hahn, Henry Clements, Roy L. Carter, Alvin Peterson, Earl Hor, Earl Holm, Paul Franklin, C.A. Seavert, Harold Stephans, Victor Larzon, L.H. Hansen, Pearl Norris, Goodborn, Henry Nelson, Marvin Scott, Art Stavos, Arnold Ride, Oscar Eliaison, E.M. Burkhard, Reuben Bentz, Peter Johannes, Donald Davis, John Radig, Philip Robison, Charles Richardson, Oscar Bros, George Hjalrield, Floyd Schenk, Luverne Swenson, Herman Tusbaas and George Eiler who is presently serving as Noble Grand of Dakota Lodge No. 1 of Rebekeh.

The Lodge building was sold to Gary Johnson in September of 1979 who has renovated most of the building into apartment dwelling spaces except for the second story of the building which is rented and used by the Odd Fellows and Rebekeh for a regular meeting place.

by Reuben Bentz

YANKTON ELKS LODGE NO. 994 T187

Yankton Lodge No. 994 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of the United States of America was chartered in Yankton on October 12, 1905.

Members and officers of other Elks Lodges from South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa came to Yankton to establish the initial officers and to conduct the Ceremonies were conducted in Yankton's historic Dakota Theatre building.

The first lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) of the United States of America was founded

The Elks Lodge taken in 1855.

February 16, 1883. A group of actors and perf

y a young Englishman, hande form the original group they the "Jolly Corks" in New York B.P.O.ER Grand Lodge popu-

mite that the new is a population of 5,000 resides tempta to find a lodge of the in the cement City. Bu locals boasted the city's inculding in their count e patients of the Human Servi

as employees at the plant then in operation four Yankton.

Grand lodge official final population figures for Yakton were allowed to proceed.

Members and officers from area came to Yakton by ra novel mode of travel in those autumn day in 1905. The "emergency lodge" in what was

clubroom of the Yakton Elks second floor of Turner Hall a now the office of the Yakton Dakot.

After formation of the lodge the scene was shifted to the arose, the Dakota Theater street from Turner Hall where Lodge No. 994 was instituted office was detailed.

Charles Alpenron Sidney ' next of the initial lodge structure to serve as the leader, "imperial group. A similar organisati

England. Not long after the group beg a regular basis, they receive "benevolent order" and that formed to draft rules and a and to select a.

Elks was chosen as a nan Buffaloes", another English which Vivian was familiar. It decided upon February 16, 1883. From its start with several 1869, the order of Elks grew largest fraternal organization There are over 2,000 lodges in Puerto Rico, Guan, Canal Zone P.I.

Elks Lodge moved from clubrooms in Turner Hall to house one block north, 607 West corner stone of the new lodge in 1912. Meetings are conducted the
The Elks Lodge taken in 1905.

February 16, 1906.

A group of actors and performers, led by a young Englishman, banded together to form the original group they initially called the "Jolly Coeks" in New York City.

B.P.O.E. Grand Lodge population requirements that the site of a new Elks Lodge be at least a population of 5,000 residents adult attempts to found a lodge of the fraternal order in the cement city.

But locals boosted the city's population by including in their count employees and patients of the New York County, or as employees at the Portland Cement plant then in operation four miles west of Yakima.

Grand Lodge officials finally accepted the population figures for Yakima, and plans were allowed to proceed.

Members and officers from the three state area came to Yakima by rail and auto, a novel mode of travel in those days, on that autumn day in 1905. They created an "emergency lodge" in which would become the clubhouse of the Yakima Elks Lodge on the second floor of Turner Hall at 319 Walnut, now the offices of the Yakima Press and Dakotan.

After formation of the emergency lodge, the scene was shifted to the Yakima Theatre, now the Dakota Theatre, across the street from Turner Hall where Yakima Elks Lodge No. 994 was instituted and the first officers installed.

Charles Algernon Sidney Vivian, proponent of the initial lodge structure, was elected to serve as the leader, "Imperial Cork", of the group. A similar organization existed in England.

Not long after the group began meeting on a regular basis, they resolved to form a "benevolent order" and that a committee be formed to draft rules and an initiation ritual and to select a name.

Elks was chosen as a name over "The Buffaloes", another English group with which Vivian was familiar. The name was decided upon February 16, 1906.

From its start with seventeen members in 1895, the order of Elks grew to become the largest fraternal organization of its kind. There are over 2,000 lodges in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, Canal Zone and Manila, P.I.

Elks Lodge moved from their original clubhouse in Turner Hall to their new lodge home one block north, 407 Walnut, after the corner stone of the new lodge home was set in 1912.

Meetings are conducted the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

Current officers of Yakima Elks Lodge No. 994 include: Exalted Ruler, Derrell L. Stoodis; Exalted Leading Knight, Richard H. Stainisch; Exalted Loyal Knight, John K. Corrette; Exalted Lecturing Knight, Larry F. Hoemer; Exquire, Roger L. Pierce; Chaplain, Russell Leighton; Inner Guard, Keith Warrilow; Secretary, William E. Nelson; Treasurer, Robert J. Fefer; Tiler Joseph Novak; Trustees, James L. Van Oesel, K. Deane Iverson, Robert F. Jones, Ronald V. Sejnoha, and Edward J. Walloch.


by James Van Oesel

FRIENDSHIP
EXTENSION CLUB

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The Friendship Home Extension Club was organized in September 1927 under Mrs. John Wasted. We have one charter member, Mrs. Rose Regan; one member, Mary Stack- ler, joined in 1929 and is still active. Our present membership is 17. We meet once a month in the homes, and two members take lunch for which a fee is donated. The hostess donates a door prize. Two ladies are chosen to take the monthly lesson, which our home agent gives, and they bring the lessons back to the club. The lessons are Adult Educational Programs sponsored by South

KTON ELKS

GE NO. 994

No. 994 of the Benevolent Order of Elks of the United States was chartered in Yakima 1905. I officers of other Elks Lodges were present, and the lodge officers were installed in the initial officers of Yakima Lodge No. 994, are conducted in Yakima's theatre building.

The officers and members of Elks (B.P.O.E.) of the Benevolent Order of Elks of the United States of America was founded in 1884.
Dakota State University, through the County Extension Office. We have a Christmas party that all the members enjoy, we play games and exchange gifts. In June we have a salad luncheon; all members bring their favorite salads.

Through the 55 years since our club began, we participated in many activities, such as giving demonstrations at 4-H County Achievement Days, for which many of our members received awards. Members also took part in the County Chorus, Red Cross, and Grey Ladies.

Our present home agent is Judy Johnson. Down through the years, over 100 ladies belonged to our club. Many have passed away.

As of March 1, 1966, there are (17) Friendship members named; Mrs. Arthur Krueger, Mrs. Rae Beggs, Mrs. Mary Stickle, Mrs. Cora Aren, Mrs. Seth Johansen, Mrs. Millie Chapman, Mrs. Edna Sturr, Mrs. Frank Schult, Mrs. Catherine Crann, Mrs. Grace Christensen, Mrs. Edna Uecher, Mrs. Wesley Neufeld, Mrs. Velma Decke, Mrs. Amy Brecht, Mrs. Charles Richardson, Mrs. Martha Rusch, and Mrs. Pat Kotalik.

by Lillian Schultz

GIRL SCOUTS OF AMERICA

According to a Yankton Daily Press article on November 14, 1934, "at the meeting of the Y.W.C.A. at the dormitory last evening Miss Carol Preston addressed the gathering. The Girl Scouts send their thanks to Miss Preston. She is out from National Scout Headquarters in New York City and is instructing a group of about twenty students at the college in the work." Prior to that time the rector at Christ Church Episcopal, Edgar Siegfried, and his wife had Boy Scouts and a group of girls holding meetings in the parish hall. After finishing the course Verda Vaughan (Hoekstra) was registered as the captain of the first troop. Bonnie Gunney Clark was the lieutenant captain and in actual charge of troop work. The first official Girl Scout troop in Yankton consisted of thirty girls.

Fifteen years later on February 23, 1939 the first council was organized by Olive Crocker, National Field Worker. The following officers were elected: Commissioner, Mrs. A.B. Johnson; Assistant Commissioner, Mrs. Pearl Currier Nash; Secretary, Miss Lillian English; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Walter Grimm; Treasurer, Mrs. H.D. Wigodsky. An advisory council was formed and made up of the officers and chairman of committees: Mrs. H.P. Jacobson; Mrs. Roy Barron, Mrs. Bonnie Clark, Mrs. H.D. Wigodsky, Mrs. Margaret Hibbard, Mrs. Pearl C. Nash, Mrs. J.W. Donohoe.

Bonnie Clark described their first uniform as a khaki Norfolk jacket with the Sam Browne belt, campaign hat, and mid-length shirt. She resigned from the council in February 1943, but continued professionally as executive director of Girl Scouts in Salt Lake City, Utah and Hastings, Nebraska.

The Yankton Council was in operation from 1939 to 1962. During that time cookie sales, day camps, Arbor Day activities, Christmas caroling, Mother's Day, favors for hospitals, along with various other events began and continued to the present.

Bonnie Gunney Clark established the first official Girl Scout Troop in Yankton in 1924.
A day camp gathering in 1947 demonstrating outdoor cooking.

“MerryWood” by Virginia Rosch and was a thriving camp for six years. Other directors and trainers were L. Hobbs, C. Stroossen, K. Harris, L. Rosch, M. Nash, and A. Halstead. In recent years the Day Camp committees have been trained and encouraged by Millie Wootton, Max Tinker, Billie Alarie, Phyllis Voraeske, and Irene Scott. Camp nurse for over twenty years. Willing assistants have been Shirley Nelson, Lee Smith, Olga Jorgenson, Phyllis Schrempf, Charles Tinker, and Roy Voraeske.

Mrs. Nellie (A.B.) Johnson resigned in the fall of 1953 as treasurer and received the Thanks Budge in appreciation for more than fifteen years of service to the Yankton Girl Scout Council. Mrs. M.W. Pfeiffer succeeded her the next five years as council treasurer, registrar, and at camp. In November 1950 the Civil Air Patrol inducted twenty-five senior scouts into an advance program to stress the importance of aviation. Their commander was Major Jerry O’Connell under the supervision of Lieutenant Colonel Maurice Diehl. This was the first patrol of this type in the Council.

During this period the funding was all done locally and the Festival of Nations in March of 1955 was very successful financially. It was repeated in 1956. Cookie sales took the community by storm in one-day drives. The Scouts observed Girl Scout Week during the week of October thirty-first, which was Juliette Low’s birthday. Elaborate programs on Arbor Day were conducted at the site of the tree plantings in Fante Park, near Beadle school, and the high school. New sales began in 1955 and the United Fund combined assistance in 1956.

The first National Encampment was held in 1956 at Pontiac, Michigan. The Yankton Scouts were represented by Karl Klimisch, Kathryn Hittigen, Julie Bage, and adult staff members, Mabel Morrison and Inez Harris. Bound-Up 1960 was held in Colorado. Scouts who attended from our Council were Mary Duffy, Patricia Ryan, Jean Tamisiea, Diane Harris, Carla Kapitan, Bernita and Juliann Wootton. The six scouts from Yankton attending Round-Up 1962 in Vermont were Judy Nelson, Ann Satter, Linda Gross, Frances Jobes, Jean Duffy, and Marilyn Brogdon.

The Yankton Council merged with the Minn–Ja–Kota Girl Scout Council on March 15, 1962, to reduce costs in training, supplies, and administration. Ruth Ranney was president then and continued as chairman of the Yankton Neighborhood. Isabel Satter was appointed to the Board of Directors of Region X in 1960, serving for eight years, followed by three years as a National Resource Volunteer. Shirley Cope served as Council President 1973–77. People who have served on the Council Board of Directors since 1962 are: V. Shoemake, R. Ranney, I. Satter, M. Wootton, S. Cope, G. Boyles, M. Tinker, J. Briggs, M. Johnson, and Robert Hirsch.

In the fall of 1971 the new Council camp at Oak Lake near Brookings was dedicated. Senator Chuck Grassley was influential in the purchase and development of this camp site. Fifteen Girl Scouts from Yankton set up a model primitive camp. They were Charles and Jolene Becker, Cathy Smith, Janet Nelson, Roxanne Beusmeur, Liz Wyman, Kim Alarie, Timaree Bierle, Vicki Boyles, Barbara Shoemaker, Mosier Bowers, Deena Gross, Peg Pans and Kathy Tinken, accompanied by the Charles Tinker’s and Art Becker’s. Since 1960 approximately forty Yankton Girl scouts have attended Opportunities outside our council, nationally and internationally.


Past Presidents


by Mrs. E.W. Boyles
The Civil War Veterans, now growing old and few in number, decided in 1922 to turn over the management of the Hall to the Women's Relief Corp and legally deed the property to them. The G.A.R. selected five women, four of whom were daughters of Civil War Veterans. This group was called the Phil Kearney Corporation of the Woman's Relief Corp, and their duty was to care for the property deeded to them. They were: Minn. Grace Gurney, Alma Beck, Leta Johnson, Christine Feyersharn, and Eunice Knapp. This corporation has been in existence since that date and today the names of Elisabeth Remp, Lillian Polly, Alice Jacobsen, Tilly Burns, and Edith Gurney are on file at Pierre as Directors.

The few members at that time were Mr. Kinney, Warren Osborn, and Abe Van Osdel. After the deaths of Mr. Kinney and Mr. Van Osdel, Mr. Osborn returned from Florida and turned over the gavel and the charter of the Post to the Woman's Relief Corp. At his death the deed was obtained from the First Dakota National Bank and the property became the duty of the Corporation.

On September 9, 1937, the Corporation decided to turn the property over to the Youngstown Patriotic Organization in Youngstown, namely the Roy Anderson Post #12, American Legion. The Post was given the stipulation that the Woman's Relief Corp continue to meet there, free of charge, as long as the Corps was able to continue. It also stipulated that the Hall be kept in repair, the name never be changed, and the front never be moved.

After the American Legion took over the Hall it was fully remodeled. The roof and walls were repaired, a complete basement was built, the kitchen and dining area moved to the basement, and the arena was remodeled. The outside of the building was restored, and the front entry was moved. Seventeen years later the Hall was returned to the Woman's Relief Corp Corporation and it was moved on June 30, 1954.

From 1890-84 the Corps has made great improvements in the maintenance of the Hall. The venetian blinds were replaced; the windows were replaced; the walls in the basement and the first floor were repainted; the kitchen was repainted; the basement windows were rebuilt; two new front doors were installed; new light fixtures were installed in the basement; a new roof was installed; the upstairs was remodeled; the front window was replaced; the basement was remodeled; the roof was replaced; the outside of the building was refurbished; the brick was repainted; the roof was replaced.

After 1954, the Hall was returned to the Corps. The roof and walls were repaired, and the basement was rebuilt. The cost of upkeep totaled $5,000. The roof and walls were replaced, and the basement was rebuilt. The cost of upkeep totaled $5,000. The roof and walls were replaced, and the basement was rebuilt. The cost of upkeep totaled $5,000.

The purpose of the organization is to keep the history of German immigrants in South Dakota alive. The goals are to collect and preserve the history of German immigrants, map and have these available at local clubs and national headquarters.

Four meetings are held each year, with a mixture of presentations, annual patriotic essays, scholarships for college, nursing home programs, veterans' assistance, child care, and other projects. The present coordinator is Dr. Lillian Polly.

The Yankton Corporation has a program for the sale of the Old Women's Relief Corps' property to local citizens, to be used for patriotic projects. This is planned by Mr. Ed. Gurney.

THE HOMES

This is an excellent chapter on Yankton, South Dakota. An excellent source of information for anyone interested in the history of Yankton. The author, Dr. Robert H. Groten, provides an excellent history of Yankton in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The author describes the growth of Yankton, the development of the city, and the role of the German immigrants in the growth of Yankton. The author also provides a detailed account of the history of the Woman's Relief Corps in Yankton, including the history of the Hall and the activities of the organization.

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Veterans, now growing old together, decided in 1922 to turn germ of the Hall to the Corps and formally name it the Homestead. The G.A.R. selected five whom were daughters of Civil War veterans. This group was called the Phoebe, the Woman's Relief Corps. Their duty was to care for the Cush to the d. They were Mes- Gurney, Alma Beck, Lena time Pfeifer, and Corinne. Corporation has been in existence and date today the names of x, Lillian Polly, Alice Jacob- sk, and Edith Gurney are on the Directors. shers at that time were Mrs. Isham, and Abe Van ed. S. of Mr. Kinney and Mr. Van on returned from Florida and Florida and the charter of the man's Relief Corps Corpora the deed was obtained from its National Bank and the t the duty of the Corporation. 9, 1937, the Corporation n the property over to the the formation in Yankton. Anderson Post #12, American was given the stipulation oman's Relief Corps continue all, so long as the the deed is still being kept in repair, the name red, and the front never be urican Legion took over the the Corps was organized in s, and the second floor was first floor were renovated, the building was changed to two new installed; florescent lights in the basement, a tree was removed in the front of the line, the brick was pointed he front porch was restored as t of upkeep totaled $5,002.65, the hard work of 40 loyal honor low rates for the use of the 90th birthday of our Grand at the Yankton Cemetery, as held for the remodeling. I worked on it during the and the spring of 1962. Cost ng and the materials amount the sum was raised chiefly n, and have these available for its membership at local clubs and headquarters at Lincoln, Nebraska. Four meetings are held locally every week with speakers on various related subjects. Films have been shown, travelogues given, and a bus trip touring various German architecture was held. German singing and customs are encouraged. Ingrid Rimland, an author of several books, came to Yankton for an open meeting to discuss her German background and books. Elizabeth Foss, Kenneth Auch, and Reu- ber Goetz have served as presidents of the Homestead Chapter. Loretta Jones has served as an officer since the Charter. by Elizabeth Foss

LEWIS AND CLARK CAMP T192

1957-1982

It is interesting to know that millions of years ago this area had its share of prehistoric life and was the bottom of an ocean. In recent years, Dave Jones, a geologist from Worthington, Minnesota, has spent his summers at camp teaching the geology merit badge to Scouts. He also conducts tours along the shore-line cliffs of Lewis & Clark Lake and has made some fascinating discoveries of prehistoric ocean life which is of great interest to the Scouts.

It is not certain what or how developed the prehistoric era, and it is known that the Native American Indians who discovered it in fact, who live where we are now gathered. In the early stages of construction of the administration building, earth moving and leveling had to be done. One day a group of Sioux Council board members and the contractor were reviewing the project and discovered pieces of bone fragments and teeth, which lead to the discovery of a complete skeleton of a animal. The archeology dept. from the University of South Dakota removed the remains and did the necessary testing to determine age and time of burial. The results were that it was a female between the ages of 9 to 11 of the Woodland Indian tribe that camped in this area in the period about 600 A.D., almost 1400 years ago.

In the year of 1904, the Lewis and Clark expedition made their way westward up the Missouri River where Lewis and Clark are part of a story. They also camped in areas near the mouth of our river, the river was once part of that expedition. Sioux Indians were the main inhabitants of this area during this time period.

The white settlers started to homestead the land and many choose areas with an abundance of trees as so they would have materials to build their homes and a quick source of fuel. The land which comprises the camp was owned by three different parties, one was a bachelor who lived in a tarpaper shack in the area where the house is located. The major portion was owned by a man who used the area to raise horses for rodeo. Some of the horses were pretty wild — one refused to be rounded up and roamed the area for several years after the Scouts started camping here. They didn’t mind for some tried their skill in roping the horse, but no one succeeded. Nobody knows what happened to the animal, but rumor is that it can still be seen at night in different parts of the camp.

During World War II this area was used by the Air Force as an air-to-ground gunnery and bombing range. Simulated targets of planes were placed in different locations and strafed by low flying bombers and fighter planes, leaving many empty shells and craters in the area. After all the 50 years, they are still hunted by Scouts as souvenirs of camp.

In the early 60’s, our Sioux Council began its search for property to establish a larger long range camping facility. The Freeman Otto, who was then a Vice President of the Sioux Council Executive Board was appointed, along with Wendell Hanson, Council Camping Chairman, and others to look for property for a new camp. With the backing of Gavins Point Dam and the forming of Lewis and Clark Lake, they decided this was an area to start looking. In 1964, the Council received an option to purchase the property which was still held. The following year, through the leadership of Mr. Otto, the drive was held in the city of Yankton to pay for the property. The drive was successful and along with a few other contributions, the property was paid for and turned over to the Sioux Council for further development and Lewis and Clark Scout Camp was born. Wendell Hanson then gave council v leadership to raise funds to develop the camp. In the late 60’s a council-wide capital fund drive was held and was successful.

The property was purchased from Tuffy Brown, Emil Neumann, and the property was located ten miles west and two miles south on the bank of the Missouri River where the camp was started. In the meantime the current lodge already being used by Scouts, and the first number of facilities was started. The name was then changed to the name of Madison Eugene Madison as camp director. He and his family stayed in an old farm house which was across the road from where the new lodge is now located. That was the camp because the name was changed to Lewis and Clark and the boats and mice. The old barracks’ tarpaper shack was the trading post and commissary, with some refrigerators that didn’t work most of the time. Peter Nelson, now of Boone, Iowa, was the commissary director. Ernest Petrak, now of Springfield, South Dakota, was the program director. During this time Mr. Hanson developed the first film to promote the use and support of the camp. This old 8mm film is still in the council office. The first camp ranger was George Peterka. He still serves in that capacity. During this time, the lodge was definitely primitive compared to today’s standards. The trails into camp were almost impassable when it rained. There were times when food, water, and supplies were brought in by a long boat.

The first step in developing the camp was the development and grading of the roads. The first work done on that was in 1959 and finished in 1960. The first phase of building consisted of the restroom and maintenance building. The contract was let in the fall of 1960, and the buildings were finished in the summer of 1960. In 1961 the water treatment plant and reservoir were built, with the main water lines were laid. The following year, 1962, was perhaps the most important phase of the camp development when the administration building and program buildings were constructed. In 1963, the rifle range was made. At 1963 the range was constructed by industrial art students from the University of S.D. at Springfield. The shooting house was built in 1965. In 1972, water lines were extended to
MARTYR COUNCIL NO. 1536, KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS T193

A meeting was held in the basement of Sacred Heart Church on December 10, 1910, to organize a Knights of Columbus council in Yankton. D.M. Finne- gan served as temporary chairman, called the meeting to order and E.L. Dealy acted as temporary secretary.

The minutes state that all those who had made application for membership were accepted, and that as soon as the charter was received, they would be initiated and become charter members.

The membership decided to name the council Martyr, in honor of Dakota Territory's pioneer bishop, Martin Martyr.

The following were elected to the offices and were to serve as soon as the charter was received: Grand Knight, Stephen Hentges; Deputy Grand Knight, Ed Walpole; Chaplain, Rev. L.L. Chancelor; D.M. Finnegan; Warden, J.J. McDonough; Financial Secretary, E.L. Dealy; Recorder, Joseph Dwelling; Treasurer, Reuss; District Commissioner, Robert Schneider; Advocate, Joseph Janazu- sek; Inside Guard, J. McGuire; Outside Guard, Joseph Stot; Physician, Dr. E.M. Doyle; Trustees, Dan Devcavit, J.J. McDonough, and J. Brach.


The initiation was held in the Old Follows Hall building, and the banquet and program were held in the Portland Hotel, now the Charles Gurney Hotel. During World War I the council purchased Liberty Bonds and contributed to the Supplessa Council to pay expenses for camps held both in this country and in France. In the early twenties, Martyr Council met in the club rooms located on the second floor of the present Press and Dako- ton Building, and over the years have had club rooms in several other locations. From the P&D Building the council moved back to parish property after the present Sacred Heart School was built.

The council meetings are held in the school basement, and the initiations were held in the auditorium of the school. Two classroom rooms were used, one for the L.R. (lecture room) and the other for the H.R. (lecture room). The initiation was held in the old gymnasium of the school. The banquet and program in the building were held in the basement. So you see the day was very, very long, sometimes too long when you counted Saturday along with Sunday.

The top floor of the Sacred Heart School Building was remodeled, making more classrooms and a music department, the council moved back into the basement of the old Sacred Heart Church, and fixed that up to fill our needs.

The next move was to the corner of Third and Douglas, upstairs over what is now a bar, and after a disastrous fire in a hardware store next to the corner building, the council again moved back a part of the building in the early part of 1940.

Incidentally, the land on which the present K of C building is located was provided by Father Kennedy, Elmer Kavessy, 1937-1959. Knight Elmer Kavessy, now deceased, was an ardent supporter of all activities on the local, state, and national level, and one of the most loyal members in our long history.

For several years after 1920, Martyr Council owned and operated the Knights of Columbus Ballroom, and the Famous June 17th, which at the time we purchased it was known as Wildwood Park. The council later sold this property to the City of Yankton.

Fourth of July celebrations, dances, ball games, and many picnics were held there. The K of C's also sponsored a baseball team in 1929, 1939, 1951, and the park was used as a home field.

In 1932 the K of C's organized a diamond-ball league, and one of the state championship at Aberdeen, with a team made up mostly of members of Martyr Council.

During 1933, and the following depression years, Martyr Council was engaged in several projects to raise what little money we could for needy purposes. Among these projects was the area-wide basketball tournament to add money to a fund for feed and seed for needy farms. The prime movement for this project was provided by Gurney Seed & Nursery Co. and W.N.A.X, We raised $400.00 for the fund. That was a lot of money at that time, and there were a lot of happy K of C members, who now are able to make the project a success. The basketball court in the present Middle School complex was rented to play the games.

The council also raised money to furnish rooms at Sacred Heart Hospital, and was instrumental in placing a statue of Bishop Martyr, for whom the council was named, in front of the old convent building. The statue was later moved to a new location now fronting the original Mount Martyr High School Building.


The Council provided leadership on the state and national level. The first State Deputy from Yankton was David M. Finnegan, a Yankton banker who served from 1916-37. William L. Car- berry, a former Charter member of Yankton Council, served as State Deputy from 1953- 39, although a resident of Aberdeen at the time. Other State Deputies were C.E. Brown- ton - 56-57 and Dorval Locke.

by Wm. Rosman

MASONIC TEMPLE

MASONIC TEMPLE located at 4th and 1st Avenue N.

by George Peterka

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MASONIC TEMPLE located at 4th and 1st Avenue N.

by George Peterka
by Roland Peterson

OLD YANKTON GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

In the year 1923, a group of Yankton individuals leased a parcel of land known as the Dunham property located approximately four miles north of Yankton with the intention of starting a golf course. This comprised approximately 60 acres. The lease contained a clause that the land could be purchased by November 1st of that year. They must have been assured that they could raise the money for the purchase price because construction was started and there was some golf played that summer on what they called clay greens.

On May 17, 1923, the Yankton Golf and Country Club was incorporated. The incorporators were: W.J. Fantle, R.E. Heaton, and W.C. Luuk.

Work then began in earnest to develop sand greens, and for a while they allowed sheep to graze on the property to keep down the tall grass. It is not known now as to by whom the course was laid out, but it was a most interesting lay-out consisting of nine holes, 2,785 yards in length with a par of 34. The terrain was quite hilly and had a creek running through it which came into play on five of the holes. The rough was allowed to grow tall which put a premium on hitting a straight ball down the fairway. At the inception of the Yankton Golf and Country Club, it becomes necessary to announce that the first officers elected at a June 27, 1923 meeting were as follows: Wm J. Fantle, President; W.C. Luuk, Vice President; E.T.
Hughes, Secretary; and R.E. Heaton, Treasurer. The directors besides the aforementioned officers were C.W. Lack and R.A. Wheeler.


Gradually improvements were made to the course, and a frame club house was erected on a highpoint on the south side of the property. This club house was surrounded on three sides by a screened porch and was capable of being used for club or dinner parties for social occasions. It was equipped with kitchen facilities, and the diners were prepared by the members who served on committees for that purpose. One of the highlights of the year was the men’s dinner prepared entirely by the men, and it was at one of these occasions when our first president, W.J. Fante, was stricken by a fatal heart attack.

There was an entirely different atmosphere about this club both on the course and in the club house, from what you find in present day golf courses.

Wednesday nights were jambalaya when each family in attendance would bring a covered dish, and there was a convivial gathering to enjoy a hearty meal. People seemed to be more aware and caring of the problems of others, more in the nature of one big family.

When there was no special function at the club house, members could feel free to use the facility for steak fries and other social gatherings.

On the course much stress was placed on the rules of golf relative to proper etiquette, and if any of the younger crowd got out of line they were promptly reprimanded by their elders.

One outstanding golfer was an insurance man by the name of Ralph Wheeler, who frequented the place so much that a foursome bore his name; and as close as this writer will come to the original Wheeler foursome, it was made up of R.E. Heaton, John Keating, and Harry Margolin. In later years there were others who claimed to be in the original group including Carl J. Olson, H.A. Shoomaker, and Harry Bonds.

Wheeler was a charismatic individual, and the members of the club decided to name a day after him to be known as Wheeler Day which grew to our one big tournament of the summer that drew players from all the surrounding towns. So many, in fact, that it became necessary for tee off times to be early in the morning, and sometimes the players came in when it was almost dark.

The championship flight consisted of 27 holes with the lower flights playing 18. Some of the winners through the years of the championship were: John Keating 1954 and 1957, Jessi McCou 1925-1926, Chester Bender 1928-1929, Lee Etothen 1930, Larry Wallbaum 1931-1932, Harry Binder 1935-1936, John R. Wood 1934, and Maynard Mokig 1935-1937. Wheeler Day was started in 1936; the first champion was Maynard Mokig of Mitchell, South Dakota, at that time. In 1937 the Municipal won it, and Yankton didn’t have a winner until Harry Binder won it in 1940 over Maynard Mokig.

The winners between 1940-1952 were largely made up of such players as Harry Binder, Maynard Mokig, Bert Winchester, Robert Bindsen, and Jim Binder who won it more times than any other player. Bill Pike won the last Wheeler Day in 1952 with a score of 102 on 27 holes.

Our first professional was a man named Koch, who was here in the 1920’s, and to the best of this writer’s knowledge, we had two Comstockers who served in that capacity. We were without a “pro” at the time the property was sold in 1953. Jim Binder took over the management of the grounds and operated the caddy shop for several summers.

It was decided by the membership that Yankton needed a new golf course consisting of grass greens and preferably closer to Yankton. Both of which objectives were met by the purchase of land from R.D. Hill and by much work provided by club members. We were successful in getting the new Hillcrest golf and Country Club in condition to play in 1953.

The Yankton Golf and Country Club was sold to Ernest Crockett in 1953, who in turn sold it to Fred Leach. By agreement of the new proceeds the sale were donated by the new club with only five members refusing to make this commitment. These funds were used to form the nucleus of a new club house at the present site of the Yankton Golf and Country Club.

The Yankton Golf and Country Club was finally dissolved in 1964 when Elgin Lemon was its last president, and B.F. Lockwood was its Secretary-Treasurer.

by Frank Yaggie

THE PRO LIFE MOVEMENT AND YANKTON AREA RIGHT TO LIFE

The formation of a Yankton Area Right to Life began in the fall of 1971.

The first formal meetings were convened on December 28, 1970, at the Bluebird Inn. The idea emerged from the desire to have a "pro-life" movement in Yankton. It was agreed that the purpose of the meetings would be to explore the possibility of forming a local group to promote the sanctity of life. The group's mission was to oppose abortion and support pro-life policies. The meetings were attended by a small group of individuals who were eager to do something about the issue of abortion.

The group continued to meet on a regular basis, and over the course of the next year, they began to develop a more formal structure. They elected officers, set goals, and began to plan initiatives to promote their pro-life message. The group's efforts focused on several key areas: raising awareness, organizing events, and advocating for pro-life policies.

One of the most significant initiatives was the formation of a prayer group. The prayer group met regularly to pray for an end to abortion and for the protection of the unborn. The group also organized prayer vigils at the clinic, where they would pray for the health of the mother and child.

The group also worked closely with other pro-life organizations, such as the National Right to Life Committee and the South Dakota Coalition for Life. They would attend events together and work to coordinate their efforts.

The group faced opposition from abortion rights advocates, who viewed their efforts as an attempt to undermine their rights. However, the group remained committed to their mission, and they continued to work towards their goals.

In 1972, the group became affiliated with the National Right to Life Committee, which provided them with additional resources and support. This affiliation allowed them to expand their efforts and reach a wider audience.

The group's efforts were not without controversy. Some members of the community were opposed to their efforts, and there were occasional clashes between them and pro-choice supporters. However, the group's commitment to their cause remained strong.

In the years that followed, the group continued to meet and work towards their goals. They organized events, raised awareness, and advocated for pro-life policies. Their efforts helped to build a pro-life movement in Yankton and inspired others to take action.

In 1976, the group played a key role in passing a constitutional amendment that prohibited the funding of abortion services. This was a significant victory for the pro-life movement in the state.

In recent years, the group has continued to work towards their goals, albeit with a smaller membership. However, they remain committed to their mission and continue to advocate for pro-life policies.

The group's success has been a testament to the power of persistent effort and dedication. Their efforts have helped to build a pro-life movement in Yankton and inspire others to take action. They continue to be an important voice in the community and a reminder of the importance of protecting the unborn.
PRO LIFE
AENT AND
ION AREA
TO LIFE

by Frank Veggie

In 1925-1926, Chester Lee Elsworth 1930, Larry 992, Harry Binder 1935.
Wood 1954, and Maynard Wheeler Day was started champion was Maynard II, South Dakota, in that March of Vermillion too didn't have a winner won it in 1940 over between 1940-1952 were of such players as Harry Mopick, Bert Winchester, d Jim Binder who won it any other player. Bill Pike for Day in 1903 with a score of the year was a man named w in the 1920's, and to the 's knowledge, we had two players in that capacity. We o' the time the property Jim Binder took over the and operated the golf course, by the membership that the new golf course consisting of and preferably closer to which objectives were met found from R.D. Hill and 'ed by club members. We getting the new Hillcrest in condition to play in old and Country Club was cket in 1935, in form each. By agreement of the owners of the sale were new club with only five to make this committ were used to form the ih house at the present site old and Country Club 1964 when Elin Leon Lem fent, and B.F. Lockwood Treasurer.

by Frank Veggie

PRO LIFE
AENT AND
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TO LIFE

This picture was taken on December 9, 1977, after a talk by Ellen Dempsey, a pro-life activist from White, South Dakota, spoke to Yankton Area Right to Life. She was an alternate delegate to the National Women's Conference, Houston, Texas. L-R: Ann Lemon, Sally Weter, Ellen Dempsey, Deborah Lemon, Lee Hohbenthaler, Jeanne Morton and in the front kneeling is Frances Tuck.

Taken on December 28, 1980, Feast of the Holy Innocents, at Holy Innocents Vigil were Bishop Paul Duley, Bishop of Sioux Falls, who blessed the Holy Innocents memorial at the House of Mary Shrine on Lewis and Clark Lake. L-R: Marty Koons, artist who painted the picture in the background, "Suffer the Little Children to Come Unto Me," Bishop Paul Duley, D.D., the "Little Children," Father Thomas Ryan, spiritual director of the Shrine, Ann Lemon, chairman VARTIL, D.D. C. D. Dendigen, President of the Board of Trustees of the Shrine, and Dr. Ken Auch, President of Yankton Regional Medical Association.

Presidential candidate in the Democratic Primary in 1978, Ellen McCormick, is greeted at the Sioux Falls Airport by Mr. and Mrs. Ed English, and David and Becky Lemon, all of Yankton.

fetal models, and research material to stu- dents in our area; to participate in exhibits at fairs, bazaars, and parades; VI. to unmask abortion providers and promoters. In the ensuing months and years, hundreds of educational programs have been given by pro-life groups to church groups, classes in middle schools, high schools, and colleges, and to organizations and service clubs. VARTIL has always relied on donations from individuals and organizations, and has never charged for programs. The sisters of St. Bede's and the sisters from the infirmary of Sacred Heart Convent have been faithful supporters of our efforts through their prayers and gifts, as have the Knights of Columbus. Individuals who have helped in our educational and political activities have been generous in their financial contributions as have their families.

Memorials have been given which are used to purchase educational materials. Sister M. Leonarda Longen, O.S.B. designed a memorial card for our use which was printed by the Convert Print Shop.

In the aftermath of the Black Monday abortion decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court, January 22, 1973, the Leonard Hohbauer's started a memorial fund to make it possible to purchase fetal development models to be used in our work. This initial gift was augmented by donations from Grace and Albert Dutcher, Mollie Lemon, Joan O'Con- nor and her mother and aunt, and the Women's Choir of Sacred Heart Church. These models have been used not only for programs we have presented in the Yankton area, but also there have been displayed all around the state to be used by other pro-life groups whenever they are needed. (These babies are probably among the best traveled children in South Dakota.)

Library packets of hard-bound books and brochures were presented to all the Yankton libraries in 1973. Availability of all the educational materials, including slides, films, and projector, has resulted in many students

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presenting pro-life speeches and using abortion as the subject of their term paper and class projects.

Right to Life's first area-wide educational effort sponsored a talk by Fr. Paul Marx, OSB, from St. John's College in Minnesota, who later established HLS in Washington, D.C.. The efforts of Mrs. Paul O'Leary and her committee resulted in over 600 people attending the talk by the priest/authors of The Death Penalty and other writings. It was held in Marian Auditorium on the Mount Carmel campus.

The 1974 election year brought forth our first involvement in the political field. Rev. and Mrs. Rigel of the Yukon Nazarene Church took our pro-life slides and projector to a church meeting they were attending in North Dakota and used them while they were there to educate groups who were voting on an abortion referendum that November. (The North Dakota abortion referendum was handily defeated as was the other abortion referendum which was on the ballot in Michigan in 1973.)

Identification of pro-life candidates and their voting record on pro-life issues have continued since that time. This information was first made available through YARTL's newsletters. When it became apparent that many more people wanted to share this information, the abortion stands of candidates running in area newspapers in purchased ads.

Since no pro-life candidate was going to be on the ballot as a presidential primary candidate for the Democrats in 1976, efforts were undertaken to support pro-life activist/New York housewife, Ellen McCormack, on the South Dakota ballot. At least 20 other states were successful in raising the amount stipulated through individual contributions so thatcake's main effort was to sign people up to receive matching funds from the government and be considered a serious contender meriting JFK endorsements at all her appearances. Mrs. Elgin (Ann) Lemon was on the ballot as a presidential elector for Ellen McCormack.

In January of the 1976 South Dakota primary, it was amazing in listening to election results on the radio that when you hear from the one country precinct that at that point Jimmy Carter had one vote and Ellen McCormack had two! Actually, Ellen McCormack received her highest vote of all right here in South Dakota, with 7% of the votes cast in the Democratic presidential primary going to Ellen McCormack.

Further involvement of pro-life individuals came when Senator George McGovern returned to the state to begin his campaign for re-election in January 1976. He was to appear in Yankton where one of his first stops was to be Sacred Heart School. A pro-abortion candidate speaking to students in a Catholic grade school was not acceptable to area pro-lifers, even if it was Senator McGovern's morning meeting was ongoing the day before and not related to him to speak to the students, and not the school's. How many hundred would have appeared outside the school to silently protest his appearance will never be known because the invitation was withdrawn at the last moment by parish authorities.

YARTL's emphasis on the need for prayer to change society's anti-life stance resulted in 1975's decision to sponsor an ecumenical vigil on the Feast of the Holy Innocents, December 28th of each year. This vigil was held at Christ Church Episcopal in 1975, and in the following years has been at Sacred Heart Hospital Chapel, Assembly of God Church, Sacred Heart Church, and Free Methodist Church. Since the establishment of the Holy Innocents' Memorial at the House of Mary Shrine on Lewis & Clark Lake in 1980, the vigil has been held at St. Joseph Chapel on the grounds of that shrine each year. A Canuck pro-life apostolate called Mater Dolorosa formed in 1976, has promoted the vigil as a special project.

Mrs. Elgin Lemon has been chairman of YARTL since its beginning except from December, 1973, to August, 1974, when Richard Frost was chairman. Mrs. Paul (Mary) O'Leary was secretary and membership chairman; Dr. D.C. Dendinger, Mrs. Harold Tacke, and Mrs. Ed (Jean) English, organization liaison; Mrs. Albert (Grace) Dutcher continues her long-time treasurer's duties; Mrs. George (Mercedes) Goedert, phone contact chairman; Mrs. Ed (Lee) Hohcntanner's many years work as program coordinator was taken over after her death in 1984 by Mrs. James (Mona) Rasmussen; Mrs. Pat (Mary Ann) King, librarian and publicity chairman; prayerful picketing in front of a Sioux Falls abortionist is coordinated by Frances Tacke and Sandy and Frieda Schamber; Don Breie and the late Dr. Clark F. Rasmussen are responsible in providing legal and medical information when we first organized. Reverend James Munke, active in our effort from the beginning, hosted the first Holy Innocents Vigil which set the pattern for those to follow; the enthusiastic help of the young — little children, students, collegians, and young, married couples has resulted in pro-life floats being finished on time, newsletters being addressed and folded; the above mentioned completed, programs, given, and most important of all, their continued interest and support assures a second generation to continue these efforts.

When we organized in 1971-72, our thought was that if through our efforts one innocent life could be saved from abortion, then our work was necessary. We are hopeful many babies have been saved. We know at least one was because our first call for help came the very first time a news story announcing the existence of YARTL appeared in the local newspaper. We pray that we are closer to victory in what Rev. Paul Marx, OSB, many years ago appropriately called The War on the Unborn.

by Ann Lemon

RADIO ROSARY PROGRAM

History of the Yankton area would not be complete without a recognition of the Radio Rosary Program, that had its beginning in the KYNT Radio station in 1956 and continued on that station until June, 1982. . . . of 26 years. It became an institution, eagerly awaited every evening at 6:30 p.m. by the old and the young as well.

Credit for the inspiration for the Radio Rosary goes to the late Attorney Delvin Wellers, Mr. Weller, who was critically ill, and with his recovery in doubt . . . thought about his seven small children and being deeply concerned about them, he implored the Blessed Mother Mary and promised Her if she would obtain a cure for him so that he could live to take care of his family that he would do something special for her. Mr. Weller was cured and in fulfillment of his part, that something “special” was the inspiration for the Radio Rosary.

With the help and support of late Msgr. James A. Reilly, then Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Yankton, South Dakota and the KYNT Radio management, the KYNT Family Radio Rosary Program became a reality.

In the beginning the Rosary devotion was mainly supported by the Yankton Knights of Columbus. One of their fund raising projects was the annual Pancake Sausage Supper. Mr. Weller and Mr. Harold Hayne, another Knight of Columbus member, bore the brunt of the burden of soliciting funds; traveling together all over the KYNT area. Many times they battled severe weather conditions and traveled terrible muddy roads. Sometimes the torrential rains flooded the dirt roads and washed out bridges. “Miraculous” was the only reason they could give that they weathered the storms safely. One especially hazardous trip during a violent storm they recall had them and their families worried and wondering if they would survive and make it home. They made it! Mr. Harold Loecker, then employed by KYNT, traveled to the various parishes carrying with him cumberstone equipment for the Radio Rosary. This equipment and the groups praying the Rosary. These were the Rosaries aired on the radio. Several attempts were made to broadcast the Rosary “live”, but due to the many difficulties associated with keeping within the time limit allotted to the program, the idea of airing the Rosary devotion “live” was dropped.

Helping with the funding of the Broadcast were the various lay Catholic Organizations like the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, Christian Mothers, The Rosary and Altar Societies, The Christian Guilds, Catholic Order of Foresters, Rosary Makers, Legion of Mary and individual sponsors.

In February of 1971, The Legion of Mary of Sacred Heart Parish assumed the responsibility of continuing the Rosary Program. It continued to be supported by the various lay Catholic Organizations and individuals until June 1982 when the Manager of KYNT decided that it would be in the best interest of the station to cease airing the Rosary Program and its listeners to the Radio Rosary Program be terminated, and replaced with the station's own programming. Many people protested by mailing letters or telephoning station management, all to no avail. A meeting was held in the Legion of Mary to determine the best course of action, but the KYNT manager remained firm in his decision.

Fortunately the Radio Rosary was able to continue over WNAX, but only a Sunday morning program under the leadership of Fr. Richard Cooper, from St. Joseph Parish in Sioux City, Iowa had contracted for that time a year previously, but the financial burden of keeping the WNAX broadcast and Rosary was threatening the future of the WNAX broadcast to the Legion of Mary over the Sunday Rosary in July, 1982. A daily time spot opened in June, 1983. The Rosary is now continued evenings on Station WNAX at 7:15 p.m.

by Mrs. France

SACRED HEART HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The Sacred Heart Hospital Auxil

In 1967 Sacred Heart Hospital celebrated its centennial of activity. The auxiliary officers bakers B.E. Thompson, Mrs. J.E. Doyt W.F. Stamey.

Past presidents of Sacred Heart Hospital: Mrs. L. Feidman, Mrs. W. Carless, Mrs. R.E. Thompson, Mrs. H. Magalli, M.I. Julia, OSB, Rev. Father Joseph, OSB.
previously, but the financial burden of keeping the WNAX broadcast and the RSMJ Rosary was threatening the future of the WNAX broadcast so the Legion of Mary took over the Sunday Rosary in July, 1982, until a daily time spot opened in June, 1983. The Rosary is now continued evenings over Radio Station WNAX at 7:15 p.m.

by Mrs. Frances Tacke

SACRED HEART HOSPITAL AUXILIARY

The Sacred Heart Hospital Auxiliary came into existence in 1917 when a group of Yankton women held a meeting in the basement of the hospital on Aug. 14 of that year. Mrs. Thos. Frick was elected president, Mrs. Sig Sampson, Secretary and Mrs. G.H. Durand, Treasurer. Formerly a sewing group, they decided to organize and hold a fund raising ice cream social, and the first social was held at the Thos. Frick farm, northeast of Yankton in July, prior to the organizing meeting. Homemade ice cream and cake was served and the event netted $46.10.

In 1920, the first social was held on the hospital lawn, and this has become a yearly project of the Auxiliary. Many other projects were used to raise funds throughout the years, such as Tag Days, Easter dances, card parties, dinners, and membership drives. Some have continued, others have been dropped, but the annual summer Ice Cream Social, has remained uniquely a Yankton Community project.

The S.H. Hospital Auxiliary throughout its 68 years of existence has always remained a vehicle to promote good relations between the hospital and the Yankton community, but its primary function has been fund raising. The by-laws state that the objective of the Auxiliary is to establish and promote the interest and general welfare of the Sacred Heart Hospital.

Funds raised by the Auxiliary purchased an elevator motor for $718 in 1917, blankets in 1918, and bedding and linen in 1919. During 1919 funds were secured by having a Tag Day in Yankton and neighboring towns, but there was no social, because of the war. Still the Auxiliary was able to raise $1000 that year.

During these early years, almost every woman in Yankton was a member, and membership ranged around 75 members. This continued through 1924 when membership began to rise. In 1931 there were 600 members. In 1944 there were 349 members but the average attendance at the meetings was only 25.

In 1954, a charity ball was held and the Lawrence Walk orchestra provided the music for $80.00. The Walk Orchestra played again for another ball in 1956, but this time the fee had risen to $75.00. These balls were held in the High School Auditorium and a fifty cent admission charges was collected.

A Spring Festival was held in 1937 and a dinner was served with the help of the Sisters. Records show that the Sisters provided 75 steaks, 6 baked hams, baked beans, potatoes, 500 buns, and sugar and cream. Auxiliary members provided labor and the desserts. Mrs. R.F. Fitzgerald, president, reported that the Festival raised $369.11.

During the thirties, depression years, the
Auxiliary had difficult times raising funds, and at one point, the one dollar membership fee was dropped. It was resumed when times improved and a one dollar membership fee has existed up to 1985.

Throughout these years, Sister Flavia, the hospital administrator, worked closely with the Auxiliary. She was much beloved and many Auxiliary functions were sided by her guidance and suggestions. Later Sister Rade- gund became administrator and she was followed by Sister Rosaria. The Auxiliary presidents and the hospital administrators have labored and planned together as the hospital grew and helped more patients.

In 1942, the Auxiliary began a project which was to continue for some years. A student loan fund was established and $200.00 was voted to establish a scholarship to encourage young women to enter the nursing field. During this period there was a great shortage of nurses, and in the late forties, Sister Desideria, director of nurses, became an interested and able associate of the Auxiliary. She has continued her active interest in the Auxiliary to the present day. She is now retired and has become the hospital and auxiliary historian.

Having furnished the essentials during its early years, the Auxiliary began to supply furnishings and complete the decorating of rooms. They furnished and decorated a hospital room, and a reception room. They provided venetian blinds for the sun porches, and gave assistance toward the improvements of outdoor lighting for the hospital grounds. One summer, all members were busy making 95 infant garments for the new babies.

In 1946, when ground was broken for the addition to the old hospital, the Auxiliary became very active with fund raising projects. They gave $100.00 toward the Benet Home for nurses and when it was completed, the Auxiliary furnished the waiting room.

On Nov. 4th of '46, the Auxiliary helped celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Sacred Heart Benedictine Sisters by helping with a banquet at the city hall. When a Blood Bank was established in the hospital, the Auxiliary helped with the initiation, and Mrs. Norman Rapaele, chairman, was the first donor, along with 20 other members.

When 1987 arrived, the Auxiliary celebrated its 50th Anniversary with a gala celebration, and members pledged their support toward a second fifty years of achievement. The Auxiliary has existed and helped Sacred Heart Hospital under three roofs. The old hospital, the renovated hospital, and the new hospital. This assistance has been given through the hard work, dedicated personnel, and ingenuous ideas of its members. Records show that the Auxiliary has donated more than $78,000 toward the hospital since 1929. Old records indicate that $15,000 was collected during the first 12 years of its existence.

For many of these years, the hospital has provided a delicious lunch for members at their monthly meetings. The meetings currently are held in the old hospital cafeteria on the second Monday of each month. Membership during the eighties, has dropped to around sixty but attendance at the meetings has remained around twenty-five. Most of those attending are longtime members still giving many hours of volunteer service. Membership remains open to all Yankton area women.

The activities of the Auxiliary have changed with the years. In the beginning it was a sewing group which decided to raise money for the hospital’s needs. Later, the trend was toward greater community involvement with membership drives, Tag Days, Spring Festivals, and dances. More recently, the Auxiliary began to run a gift shop and members make homemade items which are sold in the shop. A craft committee holds an annual Christmas Bazaar, and members make papier mache in the pediatric department.

The Auxiliary provided Katie caps and bibs for cancer patients, and many members work in the hospital providing escort service for the patients.

The Auxiliary has purchased hundreds of thermal coffee pots, and paid for the installation of Hot Food Conveyors. It has given $10,000 toward the new hospital, and another $10,000 toward the purchase of a Mammogram. Currently it is paying off a $10,000 pledge toward a fetal monitor.

During its whole history, the Sacred Heart Hospital Auxiliary has always been an ecumenical organization and women of all faiths have helped the Sacred Heart Benedictine Community to maintain Sacred Heart Hospital. It continues in its efforts to draw the entire Yankton community into active participation in the work of the Auxiliary.


by R. Kabeiseman

SOUTH DAKOTA OLD TIME FIDDLERS
SOUTH DAKOTA FIDDLE CONTEST

As a young Yankton County farm boy Wilbur Foss looked forward to coming to Yankton two times each year when his folk would gather outside the Yankton courthouse to work at the court house and he would go right down to watch Happy Jack, the fiddler, and the other entertainers until it was time to go home. Foss was only 6 years of age when they had the big fiddle contest over WNAV. He did not grow old but he heard all the details as to that there were 40 fiddlers and the radio audience was the judge. 4,425 telegrams were sent in and Happy Jack was the winner, the station hired him, and he stayed on for many years. Son Wilbur was fascinated when his Dad, Darle Foss, a farmer near Scotland would play his fiddle once or twice a year during the depression years when there was not much musical activity. In about 1970 he coaxed his Dad to play a few functions and the rest is history as far as the South Dakota Fiddlers are concerned.

In 1973 Wilbur Foss took his Dad and a very famous from the National Fiddle Contest in Weiser, Idaho. While traveling through Wyoming on the way home the year Son Wilbur said “We have a fiddle contest in Yankton and since there is no State Contest we will call it the South Dakota Contest”. There was one problem – no one knew enough fiddlers up a contest so they decided from other states and call it the South Dakota and Open Contest.

That became so popular t two another group was added of 10 fiddlers of National 1 division that division was called Natco so since that time it has been Dakota, Open, and National Fiddle Contest. Many people three day event as a jamming contest.

The 1973 event was held on the grounds and 1,000 people on seats for about 400. Fiddlers came when were exp such a success that in 1974 1 Nash Auditorium on the campus College where it has been held with the exception of 1980 when to the new Sheridan Motal. It place but just too small for a size.

Wilbur Foss and his wife were in charge for most of the Blakely and Dorothy Olson for a few years in the late 1 Bosterd has served as a sec of the years and lots of vol made this a success. There but every one remembers Jr. Art Bosterd working on the checking lights and sound at Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spence up to the stage in such an - those first years of a contest et it would help in so many ways others at different times.

In 1984 a new division was an accordion contest and Mount Marty College and mission.

The Yankton County a been very helpful over the furnishing, trophies are a fan cannot do a room the very few rooms for the far to hear the music.

After the first few contests thought that these good se players should be put onregs statements. There was no or in another way he asked if Dr. and Mrs. Stanglain hundred dollars to get the first made. They did not hesitate change the date to the note shoke — and Wilbur Foss ma Friedman Recording of Pike took care of everything, m are made each year of the old prizes has never been laid and is hand down part is.

In about 1975 WNAV axh like to put on some host Sea Radio Station and they agreed to the two hour show continuous through the ye fiddlers drive 150 or 200 mi miles on a station that covers ral donations to the contest service. From April through ye Old Time F Festivals and Fair, 200 to the Left 200 Yugoslavia, Iowa and Minnea for County Fairs, Craft Fair

T199

230
DAKOTA OLD DDLERS AND H DAKOTA E CONTEST T199

'Ankton County farm boy led forward to coming to each year when his folks were there. His parents would park and he would go right down Jack, the fiddler, and the ex until it was time to go no 6 years of age when they played over WNXA so he but he heard all the details ere 49 fiddlers and the radio judge, 8,482 telegrams were sent.

Jack was the winner, the , and he stayed on for many yr for Jack as the person who made each year of the old time music that probable has never been put to music but handed down and is part of the public domain. In 1975 WNXA asked if we, second place or two, fiddlers agreed to the two hour show and that has continued through the years and many fiddlers have been nations. It was held for the first time on the radio in two tunes on a station that covers five states. The radio station donates the time as a public service. From April through November each year the S.D. Old Time Fiddlers put on jam sessions all over South Dakota and also in Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota. They play for County Fairs, Craft Fairs, Benefits and have played for many small town carnivals. Wilbur Foss has said so many times, "I do not think that there is this large a group that play so many times and travel so far to get together and who have remained a group for so many years as the South Dakota Old Time Fiddlers".

John Nelson, a Yankton County resident for many years and a fine fiddler, also started to make and repair fiddles after he retired. He does a fine job on the new ones and many old ones have been brought out of the attic and now make good music again.

According to Wilbur Foss it has been much hard work but a lot of fun too and also rewarding to get nice comments and letters from strangers thanking the group for whole some entertainment. He says, "My Father was my inspiration. It was a puzzle to me that this farmer who worked so hard with his hands could bring out nice music out of a delicate instrument like a violin. If my Dad had not been a fiddler I do not suppose there would ever have been a Contest in Yankton. I did not get much encouragement at first and in spite of the success it has had I probably would not have continued it except for all of the help with organization that I did get from my wife Elizabeth".

by Wilbur and Elizabeth Foss

SUMMIT GOLF CLUB T200

The links of the Summit Golf Club of Yankton, S.Dak and Dakota it lies just outside the city limits of Yankton on its north side. The course is rated on rating program consists of six (6) holes as follows: Outgoing — 150 yards long, 160 yards long and 350 yards long. The incoming — 150 yards long, 230 yards long and 200 yards long.

The course is in fine shape. From the teeing ground lies a gravel pit bunker, some 20 yards across. The course was opened on the 17th day of August 1899 with the match game singles between Mr. G.E. Vahey and Joseph Han- son. The scores for Vahey were: 15, 16, 18, 7, 7, and 10 with a total of 23. The scores for Hanson were: 4, 9, 13, 8, 8, 5 with a total of 50. The course record held by Joe Hansen at a score of 60. On August 13, 1899, Vahey scored 6, 9, 13, 7, 11, 7, with a total of 36. Hanson's scores were: 6, 9, 11, 7, 8, 8, with a total of 49. Course record reduced to 49 by Joe Mills Hanson.

It is interesting to note that golf was played at this early date and one can tell from the scores that it was a rather primitive lay-out and of course one must remember that the equipment both in clubs and balls left much to be desired.

by Frank Yaggie

V.F.W. POST #791 T201

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #791 was organized in the year 1912. It took the name of Ernest Bowyer, a local boy who had joined the Canadian Army and was killed during World War I. Its charter was granted May 14, 1931 with signatures of 38 members. Of this number two, John Chandler Gurney and Erick Baade, are still living. Their first Commander was Captain Joseph Mills Han son.

The Ladies Auxiliary was instituted by Margaret Wilson, State Deputy Inspector at the G.A.R. Hall. Twenty-four members had signed the original charter in 1921 but it never was instituted. On March 14, 1927, the Auxiliary was instituted and the charter was re-opened and twelve more members were secured. Of these thirty-six members, John Rempp, Ann Walling, Orphelia Wolf and Faye Bailey are still active members. The first President was Rosamond Hannah, wife of Captain Joseph Mills Hanson. She now resides in Manassas, Virginia.

The Auxiliary was the only South Dakota one at that time. Both organizations were a part of the Department of Yankton, South Dakota. In 1931 both organizations had secured three State Posts and Auxiliaries so they separated from Iowa and became a Department of their own at Yankton, South Dakota. The first Department Commander was James Lowrie of Huron Post #1776 and the first Department President was Florence Johnson of Huron Auxiliary #1776.

The local Post met at various places during their existence — in homes, in parks, in the building over Roy Walling's bar on East Third Street, in the basement of the bank building, and on many other places. Basically they bought the building on West Third Street. The building was then sold and the present home was built at 209 Cedar St. John Kano was the chairman of the building committee. Inside it lies just outside the city limits of Yankton on its north side. The course is rated on rating program consists of six (6) holes as follows: Outgoing — 150 yards long, 160 yards long and 350 yards long. The incoming — 150 yards long, 230 yards long and 200 yards long.

The course is in fine shape. From the teeing ground lies a gravel pit bunker, some 20 yards across. The course was opened on the 17th day of August 1899 with the match game singles between Mr. G.E. Vahey and Joseph Hanson. The scores for Vahey were: 15, 16, 18, 7, 7, and 10 with a total of 23. The scores for Hanson were: 4, 9, 13, 8, 8, 5 with a total of 50. The course record held by Joe Hansen at a score of 60. On August 13, 1899, Vahey scored 6, 9, 13, 7, 11, 7, with a total of 36. Hanson's scores were: 6, 9, 11, 7, 8, 8, with a total of 49. Course record reduced to 49 by Joe Mills Hanson.

It is interesting to note that golf was played at this early date and one can tell from the scores that it was a rather primitive lay-out and of course one must remember that the equipment both in clubs and balls left much to be desired.

by Frank Yaggie

The Auxiliary has had many money making programs in their history, such as bake sales, sold carloads of old newspapers, sold lunches at farm auctions, baked and sold cakes for wedding anniversaries, held rummage sales, raffles, miniature auctions, bingo night and other projects.

In 1928 the Post & Auxiliary held the first poppy sale and netted $25.21. We have continued annually these sales since that year.

In 1951 the Auxiliary lost our first member, Margaret McKey, by death. Since then we have lost 154 other members by death.

In 1953 the Auxiliary remembered 24 veterans at the Human Service Center, then the State Hospital for the Insane. We took cakes or fruit baskets. We still continue the program with different gifts.

One Auxiliary member kept a running account of membership does paid to the V.F.W. Auxiliary since it was instituted in 1927. To date the total cost is $524.00. Finally, after the National Convention in 1964, the National V.F.W. Council of Administration ratified our many requests for Life Membership in the Auxiliary—we wonder who will be our first Life Member!

The Post & Auxiliary have participated in all National and State projects since their inception, namely: Membership, Americanism & Loyalty Day, Safety, Rehabilitation, Legislative & PAC, Cancer Aid & Research, Youth Activities—including Voice of Democracy and Patriotic Art, Hospital and V.F.W. National Home.

Flurry Poppy, Extension, Special Olympics and Memorial Park & Chapel at Sturges. A Community Service scrapbook has been compiled almost every year and the Auxiliary and Post have usually placed in the first five places—many times taking first place. They have also had many winners in the Voice of Democracy program, even before it became a program assisted by National Television.

The present Post Commander is Leonard Christensen and the Auxiliary President is Mrs. Dan (Irene) Callaghan.

VOLIN COMMUNITY CLUB

The Volin Community Club was organized on March 12, 1940. The first officers elected were: R.M. Christiansen, President, Harry Furrrow, Vice President, Hardy Carlson, Secretary and Lewis Aam, Treasurer. Oscar M. Olson, Jergen Bruektor, Alin Hart and William Allison were elected to serve on the Executive Committee. Thirty-nine of the present membership signed up as members.

Articles II points out the object of the Club: to advance the commercial, agricultural, economic and cultural interests, and to promote the welfare, extension and increase of trades and industries of Volin and its trade territory, and to secure concerted action upon all matters concerning the welfare of the Volin Community.

On April 16, 1943 the first official action by the Club was to secure a cable for the flag pole and it would be put into service. Other action in 1943: secured a locker system in Volin and sponsored the Marindahl Lake project with the Isaac Walton League.

1946: Sponsored a home talent play called "Breezy Money," given two nights at the Volin Town Hall. Secured the organization of the Volin Rural Fire Truck Association.

1947: Secured a branch office in Volin of the Security State Bank of Wakonda. Helped secure the addition to the building for a County Agent in Volin County. Planned new seed control. Built bleachers for the Town Hall. 1948: Bought seats for the baseball team.

Rented ball diamond from Lindley Peterson for $75.00. Paid $75.00 toward new score board at Town Hall. Sponsored town basketball team. Held amateur contest in Volin.

1949: Helped send a girl to Girl's State.

1950: Purchased ball diamond for $700.00. With the Study Club (UCOD) had all copies of the Volin Advance bound, and had them placed in the Volin Library. Secured once a week movies. Promoted building of Marindahl Dam. Efforts were started to improve telephone service in the area. A delegation met with the public utilities in regard to this matter. Out of this came efforts to secure RTA (Rural Telephone Association). This became a reality after many meetings and much correspondence.


1953: Planted cedar trees in the Marindahl Lake area.

1954: Plans put in action to build an auditorium near the Volin School. A $100 club was formed to start raising money for the project. It was eventually completed, built entirely by local effort. It was named "Kurt West Auditorium" in memory of a local patriotic who lost his life in World War II. It had 100 chairs and made 20 tables for the Town Hall.

1956: Worked to have a Museum. The community started with a small collection of objects in the Volin School. The collection was expanded and the museum was moved to an upstairs room of the Volin School. The museum was dedicated in 1960 and the building was named the "Kurt West Auditorium."

In 1962 the Club sponsored a benefit for Scott Steenhooven, a kidney transplant recipient, in conjunction with the A.A.L. (Aid Association for Lutheran). 1963: Some more tables purchased, and trees planted in the Volin Park.


by Miriam Wright

YANKTON ANTIQUE AUTO ASSOCIATION, INC.

When you think of the history of the Yankton Antique Auto Club, you have to immediately think of the history of the automobile, and the preservation of the antique automobiles.

The restoration and preservation of antique automobiles and the common interest and fellowship of this group of people are the contributing factors that led to the forming of an Antique Auto Club in Yankton.

The Yankton Centennial held in 1961 had a lot to do with the formation of this club. There were a lot of activities planned for the celebration, and even the pageant required some antique cars. All of this activity created the interest. It was amazing to see who all had antique cars and how many. In April of 1961 a group of these car collectors met and formed the Yankton Antique Auto Club.

In order for a car to qualify for a South Dakota Historical license plate, the car must be at least 30 years old. This means that all our cars at that time were manufactured before 1931.

The forming of a car club meant that we would have regular meetings and collect dues and run the business of this club. The first officers were president, Dr. Robin Haceyke, vice president, Jari Holman, secretary-treasurer, Jim Choc. These three people who were elected as officers are also the people that were responsible for getting that first meeting together, it was held at the Gurney Hotel. Aside from the officers some of the people in attendance were Dr. Choc, Owen Hill, Dan Waalum, Frank Tupa, Alvin Haceyke, L.J. Larson, and Chuck Brewer. There were 16 people at that meeting, but I don’t know who the rest were. Owen Hill and Dan Waalum both invited me to the second meeting, at which time I joined the club.

Some of the officers and members of the club at a gathering. L-R: Alvin Haceyke, Behrends and Frank Wysuph.

The second and several more were held in the basement of an old, large building. It was the "5 Out at Wagner," a group of fellows who would put on shows and enter parades at various events. This is what it is all about. Some of the members from Wagner were Paul Stoppel, Dale B. Mauck, Tom Mauck, Merle Denk McDowell. Then we picked up people from Scotland, and Fred Hale from Vermillion was represented by O. Tom Chanesey, and Donna Bror that I can recall. By this time we had moved our meetings to the WN.

The second year 1962 we had 45 members entering parades, having car shows on tours and holding our meet at the Moose Lodge.

The third year Merlin Jensen for president, Paul Stoppel for vice president and Dave Waalum as treasurer. One of the big events that year was the incorporating of the club as a corporation and we became the Yankton Association Inc. Previous Chris had been held at Fairview Hall and we had given away that hall and Christmas party at the Isaac, house; we continued to use this site for several years.

In 1964 Merlin Jensen was president with Bill Evers as vice president and Frank Wysuph as secretary.
Some of the officers and members of the Yankton Antique Auto Association are shown as they gathered at a dinner held in the basement of the City Hall in Yankton on June 30, 1965. An annual banquet where members are presented awards. The banquet has been sponsored by Dan Wallbaum Distributing Co. The club is named for the late Warren White, a prominent member of the antique car club. The club is now known as the Yankton Antique Auto Association Inc. Previous Christmas parties have been held at Fairview Hall, but by now we are outgrowning that hall and have our first Christmas party at the Isak Walton Club house; we continue to use this hall for our parties for several years.

In 1965, Merlin Jensen was elected for president with Bill Evers as vice president and Frank Wysuph as secretary-treasurer. We were holding our S-Swaps Meet in April on the 4-H grounds and featuring a pancake breakfast for the public. This is an annual activity that we are still having and have had participants from all over the country, many states have been represented.

Our officers for 1965 were president Bob Kafka, vice president Bob Engen, Ray Rehurek as secretary-treasurer. Our next few years were much richer with the Swaps Meet as our first activity in the spring of April. Then in May we have our Annual Awards Banquet where members are presented various trophies for holding offices, participating in activities, and attending all meetings and usually a hard luck trophy is awarded to some deserving member who has earned it through trouble on the road, the most flat tires, etc. Then we try to have a tour or outing in late spring; next we've tuned up for the Czech Days parade at Tabor. This parade has always been sponsored by Dan Wallbaum Distributing Co. Then we would usually go somewhere for the Fourth of July to enter a parade like out to Gregory where I managed to run 2 new tires on my trailer, to just staying here in Yankton for a car show and display at Memorial Park and maybe a tour to St. Helena, Nebraska. In August we sometimes have tours like to Akselar to visit a museum or meet with the Sioux City club for a picnic in Vermillion. Another highlight of the summer has been the Labor Day Celebration and parade at Wagner, sometimes incorporated with a tour and campouts, and a lot of comrades with our Wagner friends. September is when we hold the annual club picnic, which has been held in many different spots around the lake as well as all the parks in town. Fall brought us out to College homecoming parades, then Veterans Day parade and occasionally we would call on for a Christmas parade, which was a test for the car and the driver as some of these cars have poor heaters or no heater. The last activity of the year was the Christmas party that was moved from the Isak Walton Club to the R.C. Hall and sometimes to the Jayville Community Hall. So you can see by the schedule of activities if you managed to get everything you were active, and many members did.

We have a club newsletter that came into being in 1960, aptly titled The Rumble Seat. This has had several editors and has been printed and published most of the time by Bob Kafka. Bob has sponsored several of our parades and helped coordinate our Labor Day activities, as well as our trips to the Crippled Children School in Sioux Falls. When we gave rides to children that were able to, and were rewarded by the happiness and gratitude of these kids. We also took and gave a trailer to the school so that they could haul wheel chairs and equipment on outings for the children. We built the trailer at Joe Goeden's shop. Some of our benevolent projects have been the purchase and installation of the flag pole for the Yankton Area Adjustment Training Center and Workshop, this was accomplished with volunteer work. This project also was headed up by Joe Goeden Construction. We also made a donation to the new ambulances in Yankton, Nebraska — we have several members from Yankton and Harlingen, who have been to the scene of accidents. We also just recently purchased the CPR training doll for the Yankton Ambulance Association.

We have a parade on the 4th of July, Little Friend Program, with a picnic and giving rides to children that are able to. We have visited many nursing homes and given some rides and a lot of conversation with these seniors citizens. Also at one time or another had a car just like ours, and can follow how happy we feel when a car that never better ones come along, but most also have fond memories and are always happy to reminisce of the days when this was the only form of transportation they had.

We remained an active and busy organization through the seventies, we gained a lot of new members and lost some of the old members, some play out and lose interest and quit, some have passed away. When this happens the remaining widow becomes a honorary lifetime member.

In 1971 a 10 year anniversary special Rumble Seat was published, containing articles written by members about themselves, their families, also describing their hobbies and their antique cars. Another notable event in the celebration of the club was when we gained our first dues paying voting female member, when Ethyl Goeden and Elaine Martin joined. Now we have several women members that own antique cars, collector cars and participate in parades and tours, several have also held offices. Ethyl Goeden has contributed a lot to our club paper as well as parading her Model A Ford Coupe.

In 1981 a part of the annual awards banquet was the recognition of those of us that had maintained our membership for 20 years. Those honored were Dan Wallbaum, Jim Cwach, Frank Tupa, Jim Holman, John Cwach, and Ray Livington. Now in 1985 we have 35 members and are active and entering parades throughout the area, associating with...
YANKTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

T204

The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce began in 1971 and was initially known as the Monday Morning Club. It was a small group of Yankton merchants organized for the protection and promotion of commerce in the Yankton area. Early meetings were limited to the promotion and sale of goods and services. As with other early associations, the group developed programs to enforce commercial rules, and protect goods in transit. Basically, all activities were limited to those directly concerned with commerce.

In the 1980s, the Monday Morning Club began serving as a community development organization. Community leaders sensed a need to operate as a central agency for commerce, because it had been reorganized as the Yankton Commercial Club in 1983 for the promotion of such projects as the South Dakota State Fair, improved and new roadways, and increased manufacturing trade. In 1980, the Yankton Commercial Club officially reorganized and incorporated as the Yankton Chamber of Commerce. Original incorporators named on the certificate from the Secretary of State (Certificate #8311) were D.B. Gurney, Nol Nelson, and E.J. Dowling. The first major project promoted and supported by the new Yankton Chamber of Commerce was the Meridian Bridge, designed to increase retail trade and traffic from counties in northeast Nebraska.

In 1989 the Chamber constructed a temporary office facility on Fourth Street between Douglas and Capitol Streets. Prior to that time the official office was at City Hall.

In 1972 the Yankton Chamber of Commerce was again reorganized and officially changed its name to the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce to reflect area-wide concerns and impact. At that time, the mission of the newly reorganized Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce was stated as "an organization to help members, the local economy, and the general public to grow, prosper, and enjoy an enriched quality of life." The Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce expanded its programs and became a full fledged community development organization with emphasis on: industrial development, transportation, agriculture, water resources, medicine, education, governmental affairs, tourism and convention, and overall business development.

Major promotion and development activities in the recent decades include: Downtown revitalization including historic preservation of key commercial structures, new parking lots in the Central Business District, and improved aesthetics. Recent industrial efforts include the recruitment of TCI Power, Products, Alumas Extrusions Inc., Hastings Manufacturing Company, Applied Engineering Incorporated, and a credit card facility associated with the First National Bank of Omaha. The Chamber of Commerce was also instrumental in securing AAA Airlines, a replacement for North Central Airlines. The saving on railroad service to Yankton was also an effort spearheaded by the Yankton Area Chamber of Commerce that led the way for a new State-wide rail system developed by the South Dakota Department of Transportation.

In 1982 the Chamber constructed a new 1,400 square foot office facility on the corner of Fourth and Cedar Streets. The building was designed to replace the "temporary" structure built in 1959.

by Mary Anne Hoxeng

YANKTON AREA SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER

T205

In November, 1969, the Broyer-Mayflower Circle at the United Church of Christ met to discuss the idea of forming a Senior Citizens organization in Yankton. Rita Sly formed a committee and Karen Johansen was named the Chairman. Other churches were notified of the interest.

Robert Roper, Mayor of the City of Yankton, proclaimed December 11, 1969, as Senior Citizen Day as a tribute to the early organizers. This was a commendable approach to utilizing the energies and the talents of Senior Citizens and to provide an area in which elderly people can further enjoy those years of their lives so important to all.

The first meeting was held at the G.A.R. Hall on December 4, 1969, with seventy-five interested citizens in attendance. At the meeting a committee was named to assist in the organization and to locate a permanent meeting place.

The first meeting was then held in the basement of the Odd Fellows Hall, the old headquarters of the Tea Canteen, on February 12, 1970. A board of directors was named, consisting of Clarence Cowman, President, Anna Marie Holthusen, Vice President, Joe Paulson, Secretary, and Russell Hulon, Treasurer. Mrs. Karen Johansen was named Publicity Director and they immediately began plans for redecorating this hall.

During 1972-74 Ethel Johannsen served as President; in 1976-77 Lucille Paulson; in 1974-77 Myron Barber; and 1978 Wes Neufeld. In 1974 members were granted so requests were made to get financial assistance from Yankton County - Richard Hunhoff became Co-Director when Myron Barber resigned to go into the real estate business.

The purchase of the first bus was authorized at the February meeting in 1975. In June rules for bus operation and routes were set and bus drivers hired.

On January 9, 1978, bids - new center. They were open 1978. Chief Stockeover was hired as a permanent driver. Sewer and pipe lines were put in. Bill Madsen was the low bidder and he was awarded contract; Stan Schuldt won at $8,000 and was awarded contract.

In 1979 Charles Chapman and Max Madsen were appointed Pro. In August, 1979, discussion of furnishing the craft...
en Cowman and Wes Neufeld assisted the committee and in 1978 the committee was updated to fourteen members.

They were to plan for the new building, to raise matching funds by solicitation from those who were interested citizens, and to select location.

Several places were inspected, namely the Old Swenson Mill building, old city shop, the G.A.R. Hall, the Milwaukee Depot, and the area on the Missouri River at the end of Brown Street.

In July, a committee was named to make a financial drive. The chairman of the Finance Committee was Oscar Bros. Teams of workers went out and secured $31,785.50, of which 19 contributors at $1,000.00 each, 19 contributors at $500.00 each, 1, contributor at $400.00 each, 19 contributors at $250.00 each, 4 contributors at $150.00 each, 24 contributors at $100.00 each, 3 contributors at $75.00 each, 26 contributors at $50.00 each, and 2 contributors at $25.00 each. There were various other smaller gifts and these other pledges were defeated. Although this was not really an organized drive, it was considered a good effort.

The Committee was authorized to purchase property from the Schwenk Estate located on 9th and Walnut Street at a cost of $12,000.00 plus survey costs by Senior Citizens. There was a thought that a need for an addition on the first and one-half lots was needed for parking area. Later, this location did not meet with the requirements for a federal grant, but they did pay approximately $10,000.00 for a profit of $9,000.00.

In December, 1977 Building Committee met with the county and the city commissioners. They agreed each would give $75,000.00 in matching money over a five-year period. However, with the $30,000.00 revenue from the Senior Citizens Center organization, $109,044 from each County General Revenue and from the City General Revenue for each year 1978-1979, plus one amount given by the City and County of $13,490.00 in 1978, and a grant from HUD of $175,000.00, the anticipated revenue was raised. It was through the diligent work of Cliff Stockmeyer, City Manager, and his staff, especially George Forbes, that the grant from HUD was received.

An Architect, Mr. Glenn Mannes, of the Duffly Company, was hired. A topography survey and soil tests were made. A metal building was first considered but the final decision was a building of brick and blocks.

In December, 1977, the City Commission decided the Wallbaum property on Whiting Drive would be the most suitable location and the Senior Citizen Board concurred. Six lots were purchased from Charles Peterson at $3,000.00 each.

On January 9, 1978, bids were let for the new center. They were opened February 13, 1978. Cliff Stockmeyer reported all parking would be in the top curb and sewer and pipe lines were put in by the city.

Bill Bouska was the low bidder for the building and he was awarded the general contract, Stan Schulte won the electric bid, and Pihlaf and Fleese won the plumbing contract.

In 1978 Chet Chapman and Richard Hushoff were appointed Program Directors. In August, 1978, discussion occurred concerning furnishing the craft room, the kitchen, the pool room, the lounge, the office and the dining area. Committees were assigned to select furnishings for each room in the Center and they were given an estimated monetary allowance for each.

At the August meeting Darwood Christensen, Chairman of Music Committee, was authorized to purchase a Story Clark Piano, listed at $1,380.00. $1,200.00 was paid from the Memorial Fund and $200.00 paid by volunteers at $100.00 each.

A twenty year lease from the city for the use of the Center was accepted at $1.00 per year rental fee. The By-Law Committee was authorized to update the by-laws which had been written in May, 1970. The new building was dedicated to the City in March, 1979, at a cost of $424,410.75. The dedication was held on Saturday, April 7, with many local and state dignitaries present.

Members on the Board of Directors included Myron Barber, Wesley Neufeld, Bernice Anderson, Oscar Hraz, Clarence Cowman, Anna Marie Holthaus, Betty Johnson, Peter Lant, Mae Marbach and Harold Fisher.

Russell Leighton, the first full-time Director, was hired in February 1981. This was made possible through a federal grant administered through the South Dakota Office of Adult Services on Aging. Existing programs were expanded and new ones were developed.

An on-site Nutrition Program was approved in July, 1981 and the first meal was served on August 17, with 72 people in attendance. The Meals-on-Wheels Program was incorporated into the Nutrition Program in January, 1982, serving approximately 45 shut-ins. However, the Sacred Heart Hospital continued to prepare the special diet meals for the Home Delivered Meals Program. The Center purchased a 1981 fourteen passenger Chevy minibus with a wheelchair lift in July 1983, and received a "Multi-Purpose Senior Center" award from Governor William Janklow.

The Senior Center staff increased to two part-time workers to ten part and full-time workers. Dues were raised to $6.00 per year and Life Memberships were made available in 1983. The membership went from a little over 400 in 1979 to 618 in 1984.

by Elizabeth Remp

YANKTON AREA RETIRED TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

The Yankton Area Retired Teachers' Association was organized on August 22, 1978, with the idea of teachers who want to "Serve and Not Be Served" as their motto. There were twenty charter members. Madeline Tschetter of Huron, Assistant Director of the SDRTA, was present to assist in the organization of the local teachers. This group has been affiliated with the SDRTA group and the NRTA group since their induction.

The purposes of the YTA besides holding social functions, provides information on Social Security, and legislation affecting retired persons. It offers insurance data, job and health programs, travel opportunities, educational programs, and driver improvement assistance.

The original officers appointed and elected were Jack Sather, President; Floyd Thompson, Vice President; Helen Bride, Treasurer; and Beulah Larson, Secretary.

At this time there are forty-six members from Yankton and the surrounding area. Membership is not limited to retired teachers only but is open to anyone interested in education.

Birthday dinners and noon luncheons are held during September, October, November, March, April and May at the Yankton County Library or at various local restaurants.

The YARTA began a new project by planting a spruce tree during Arbor Day week at Waits Park near the park area located on the site of the Dakota Territorial Museum. This tradition of tree planting will be continued until the State Centennial in 1989. Sites selected with historical value will be designated later.

A framed list of County Superintendents of Yankton County was prepared and presented by Elizabeth Remp at the Yankton County Library or at various local restaurants.

During 1984, the YARTA sponsored a local ex-rural teacher, Elizabeth Remp, as a candidate for the citizens of the year of Yankton. She was elected.

by Historical Committee, Floyd Thompson, Victoria Skaane, Elizabeth Remp

YANKTON CONTACT CENTER

In the beginning the idea was born in the minds of a group of social minded Yankton citizens. They vowed the seeds and out of their ideas emerged the Yankton Contact Center.

The Clothing Center, spear headed by the Church Women United, had proved to be a good fund raising project, and they wanted to use the funds for some worthwhile community project, so they began to examine the needs of the Yankton County.

Originally, there were three developing meetings held during 1974. One was held at Christ Church Episcopal, another at the United Church of Christ, and a final one at Love Methodist. At the latter, many different concerned citizens presented ideas as they examined the needs in the Yankton County.

A team of six people were asked to form and work toward the reality of a Contact Center. The original committee was composed of Al Harm, Perk Bearden, Ruth Battin, Marjorie Gross, Daymon Young, and Barbara Sundling. During the summer of '74, weekly meetings were held with different segments of the community. Out of these meetings the committee developed the specific ideas for the Yankton Contact Center.

This included the writing of the non-profit by laws and the compiling of an information book which included all Yankton area organizations, their officers, and agencies related to
YANKTON COUNTY
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

Yankton County is located in the southeast part of the state with the Missouri River on the south and two counties west from the Iowa State line. The first settlers came in 1856, but the 1869 settlers were the ones who came in large numbers. Territorial legislature met in the town of Yankton in 1861.

The drainage of the County is into the Missouri River through the James River and its tributaries. The topography of the area ranges from undulating to nearly level, and bottom land in the southeast corner is level. The soils vary quite widely from clay loams, silty clay loams to silt loams; the surface drainage from the undulating areas is rather fast and the soil needs to be protected by conservation practices that reduce or control the drainage. Some of the heavy, flat lands need supplemental drainage.

The proper land use varies according to the topography and types of soil. In general, it may be said that the soils are suitable for corn, soybeans, small grains, pastures, alfalfa and cultivated grasses.

The early settlers found a land of good grass, ample water and a very productive soil. They came to find farm land and establish a home. They plowed out grassland and produced grain crops and some livestock. After a time corn began to replace some of the small grains and livestock numbers increased, including beef cattle, dairy cattle, hogs and sheep.

This type of farming was carried on for a matter of 75 to 80 years when things began to happen. The dry years came along and many of the soils suffered from loss of water and wind erosion. Yields were low due to lack of moisture and reduced productivity.

The climate is typical of the prairie regions of South Dakota, with rather long, cold winters and comparatively short and fairly dry summers. The average rainfall is about 24 inches, with about 17 inches falling during the growing season.

Stream flooding is a problem along the river and creeks, especially the James River and Missouri River bottoms.

During the past or several years, there did not appear to be any particular problem but during the dry years, when the rains often came in hard showers, some serious problems became evident. Soil was washed on the sloping areas, gullies were forming, lower land became flattened, some of the natural drains became clogged, and in later years the low lands flooded.

Many of the people became interested in doing something about it. So in 1943, they started proceedings to organize a district. A hearing was held December 17, 1943, and the referendum on March 20, 1944, with about 68 percent favorable vote. The district covered Violin, Martinsdale, Turkey Valley, Walsh town, Mission Hill, and Mayfield townships.

Then in 1946, the remainder of the County joined the district.

The original supervisors were: Harry A. Christophersen, Merino, chairman; Edward O. Lien, Violin, vice-chairman; George L. Reed, Mayor of Rushmore, Secretary-Treasurer.

by Reta Kabeiseman

Back row L-R: Gale Erickson
Chamain, Front row L-R: Jo
supervisor.

Lyngstad, Violin, treasurer; Lien, secretary; and Leonart
supervisor.

The main problem as the it was to hold the water on
the hills, so they would erode, gullies, and silting o
lower lands.

They proposed to accomplish the use of contour farming
tour pastures furrows; terr:
diversion terraces; grass seed
grazed waterways; shap

gullies; building dams and di
grating distribution; tree pl
for wildlife protection and
and building diversion and c

YANKTON COUNTY
FARMERS U
TONTON COUNTY
SERVATION
DISTRICT

T208

location is in the southeast with the Missouri River on two counties west from the one. The first settlement came in 1859 settlers were the ones who claimed. Territorial legislature of Yankton in 1861, the County is into the through the Yankton River and The topography of the basin, which is nearly level, and the southeastern corner is level. Quite wide from clay loams, to silt loams, the surface of undulating areas is rather flat needing to be protected by action that reduce or control one of the heavy, flat lands from rain drainage and use varies according to the types of soil. In general, it is the soils are suitable for small grains, pastures, alfalfa grasses. Settlers found a land of good ter and a very productive soil. The farmland and establish a well-grassed pasture and grass and some livestock. After in to remove some of the small stock numbers increased, and raising cattle, sheep and farming was carried on for 80 years when things began to dry years came along and the soil suffered from both water and yield was low due to lack of rainfall and reduced productivity. One typical of the prairie regions of the state, with rather long, cold, moist and not many years, and in the natural logged, and in later years the people became interested in it about it. So in 1943, they voted to organize a district, A. December 17, 1943, and the farm 55, 1944, with about 65 people. The district covered all Turkey Valley, Wahk- lish, and Mayfield townships. The shoulder of the County supervisors were: Harry A. Menzow, chairman; Edward E. vice-chairman; George

TONKOTON COUNTY
FARMERS UNION

T209

Yankton County Cooperative and Educational Association, which will hereafter be called the Farmers Union began in Yankton in 1917. The reason for the first meeting was to pool the orders for kindling. The first recorded meeting and election of officers was held in Prairie Hall on September 18, 1916. The officers elected were: Mr. J.M. Nagle, President, Peter Gunderson, Vice-President, and J.H. Munkvold, Secretary. At this meeting J.W. Batcheller of Yankton was state Farmers Union President and he urged the new group to organize and to affiliate with the State and National Association. It is noted at this first meeting that the association was still pooling orders for kindling and after the election an organization the first official business was to pay Charles M. Huber $3.00 to unload a carload of twine. Then be and S.H. Sommers and J.H. Olson were elected directors. Later in the year Mr. Emil Cwach of the County Picnic Committee reported a very good crowd and a net profit of $800.09. This was turned over to the treasurer of the new organization. In November of 1926 the Y.C.P.A. were offered $100 by the County Commissioners to help find the culprits who were stealing chickens, but members voted to reward anyone who caught a chicken thief $100.00. Poultry fairs sold at the Great Northern Railroad for $25.00 a ton. Each local was authorized to order the following: 250 chickens, 100 broilers, 50 rolls, 25 chicken feed samples, 100 burpels, 25 burpels, 100 chicken feed samples, 25 burpels, 50 chicken feed samples, 25 burpels, and 100 chicken feed samples. The county presidents were elected and changed each year, but in July 1923 at Utica Emil Cwach was elected secretary-treasurer and he continued to keep very careful records. for many years. In November the secretary was directed to buy a cartload of apples. This involved over 1,000 boxes and was the beginning of the Farmers Union Store. It continued for several years and was symbolic of the service to the rail family farm which became the trade mark of Farmers Union. Membership dues were $2.00 per year, per family, 700 farmers joined. The county Farmers Union Oil business was formed, serving to force all oil companies to reduce prices and to give more services such as farm deliveries and prompt courteous services. Farmers Union meetings in 1930's lasted all day and were usually attended by 100 to 100 members and they met in the local halls throughout the county. In the plains of Highway 96 east of Yankton and selecting a choice of location for highway 96 west of town was of much concern in 1937. They purchased the Public Opinion a small weekly newspaper which served the farmers of Yankton County.

Emil Cwach was a strong leader in his community and continued to lead until his son Leo came home from the Army and began farming. In 1950 Leo became County President a position which he still holds. In 1961 Elmer Miley began 24 years as secretary-Treasurer. The Cooperative and Educational Association has continued to work for good markets, roads, schools and family farms. Over one half the farmers left the farm and the economic burden on those who remained grew each year. 1960 and 1970 were good years for the farmers and the farms grew much larger and more independent. County organization meetings are to meet each month in the area west of Yankton. They were called the Fairview Local. Emil Cwach was president, Willis Swartz was Vice-President, and Dolores Feinmeier was Secretary. The Yankton County Farmers Union Officers are: President, Leo Cwach; Vice President, Frank Scholz, Secretary-Treasurer; LoVern Rausch, Educational Director; Helen Neved, Assistant Educational Director; Dolores Feinmeier, Leg. Director; James Cwach, Co-op Director; Clarenc Cwach, and the Board Members are: Dennis Feinmeier, Lloyd Neved, and Herman Schwart.

Both Fairview and Yankton County Farmers Union continue to work for family farms. They know that only family farms will assure a food supply and reasonable price.

by LaVern H. Rutsch

YANKTON COUNTY
FARMERS UNION

T210

The earliest records we have of 4-H work in Yankton County is 1928. Through talking to some of the older people in the county, however, we find that the first 4-H clubs were organized in Yankton County in 1921. Two of the first clubs were Central Local and Elm Grove.

The 4-H program began in Yankton County about the time of World War I but never came into being until 1947 when a County and Home Agent were assigned to it.
Yankton County. That fall 6 new clubs were organized. In 1946 the 4-H enrollment consisted of 211 members belonging to 10 4-H clubs. 4-H showed a steady increase in enrollment until 1965 with an enrollment of 245 members and 14 clubs.

Myron Barber took over duties as County Agent in 1947 with Ella Ollenberg as Home Agent. The Extension office opened on October 1, 1947.

Yankton County 4-H Leaders and Extension Service staff formed the Yankton County 4-H Club Non-Profit Corporation in 1963. The initial board of directors were: Arnold Engen, Volin, President; Clifford M. Cook, Yankton, Vice-President; Mrs. Earl Case, Yankton, Secretary; Mrs. William Lyons, Yankton, Treasurer; Mrs. Selma Christensen, Yankton; Leo Owach, Yankton; John Strunk, Irene; Celia Plathberg, Home Agent; Myron Barber, County Agent.

The Corporation purchased 9 1/2 acres of land in Pine Acres Addition of Yankton from Chet Stewart. This area is presently called the Pine Acres 4-H Grounds. 4-Hers, Leaders, Parents, Friends and Agents worked on tearing down a building, given by Seth Johansen, and also in erecting five buildings on the new 4-H site. No County tax money was used in financing the project. The spirit of cooperation of everyone in the County was wonderful to witness. The 4-H grounds are used for all 4-H events and as a farm center for groups and organizations to hold their meetings.

In 1974 the Yankton Saddle Club built an out-door arena on the 4-H grounds for their shows and for the 4-H Horse Club use. During Achievement Days this is also used as a show ring.

A pole-type metal structure was constructed on the site of the former dairy building North of the Pine Acres show arena in 1980. The new building is to handle the 4-H beef projects at Achievement Days.

In 1985 the 4-H Corporation by way of area donors remodeled the present 4-H building by putting on ceiling, new lighting, insulating and painting. The funds were raised by private or local donations, auction sale and labor contributed.

4-H is the youth education program of the Cooperative Extension Service. This informal educational program is conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture State Land-Grant Universities, County Governments, and combines the work of the Federal, State and local Extension staffs and volunteer leaders. Participation in the 4-H program is open to all interested youth, primarily between the ages of 8 and 19 and reside in farm, city and in between.

4-H participants are youth taking parts in programs provided as the result of action planned initiated by Extension personnel in cooperation with volunteer leadership at the local level.

by Anita Hicks

YANKTON FEDERATED WOMEN'S CLUB T211

In 1886 the "Nineteenth Century Club" was organized with one hundred twenty five charter members. Younger members of the organization and leaders of enterprises still continue to carry on the legacy established by those early leaders.

The mission of the club is "welcoming young women who are actively engaged in various fields of endeavor." The members are dedicated to the growth and enrichment of the community. The club meets on the third Monday of each month at the Yankton Carnegie Library.

The club has been active in the community for over 111 years and continues to share its resources with others through financial support and volunteer service.

by Do
YANKTON KIWANIS 1923-85

62 Years of Service

Organization of the Yankton Kiwanis Club was completed on February 1, 1923, with 50 original members. W.O. Humpton, Yankton field representative from Chicago, assisted with the organization, clubs from Mitchell, Sioux Falls, and Madison also helping. Officers elected included George W. Gurney, president; Dr. B.F. Lockwood, vice president; and soon taking over the duties of secretary, E.J. Anderson, secretary; W.O. Nelson, treasurer; R.W. Clark, district trustee, and directors, W.W. French, Joseph Vintner, E.F. Fitzgerald, Dr. E.M. Valentine, Charles Paris, Lee Gamble, and Frank E. Van Osdal.


The charter was presented on May 18, 1923 by Andrew Pickard of Minneapolis, Governor of the Minnesota-Dakotas District, with 20 more members, including C.A. Beaver, H.M. Dickinson, Frank Dudley, Joseph Frick, D.F. Gennrich, A.C. Horst, H.H. Lindeman, George Malsine, Fred Monfort, Rearm Myers, Israel Daniels, J.E. Triewald, Victor Burton, Floyd Wright, Paul Brecht, W.E. Fantle, Harry Hammond, Hoyle Gilseath, Joseph Mainhauser and Wm. Fresshou. Yankton’s club was the eleventh in the state and 49th in the district. In 1985 there are 41 clubs in the state and 191 in the district. Yankton International was only eight years old when the Yankton club was formed. That same year the six basic objects were formulated as the permanent goals of Kiwanis, which now includes a third of a million members in 8590 clubs in 79 nations all over the world.

The first project of the Yankton club was to help get a county nurse. Getting a telephone line across the Missouri River so people could call a ferry when needed was another effort, no longer needed the next year when the Meridian Bridge was completed. The Kiwanis Club was based when it seemed about to collapse, as was a local sewers project. Yankton College, in danger of closing because of financial problems, was supported by Kiwanis and $2000.00. In local gifts helped it continue. When it did close in 1984, after 103 years of service, Kiwanis contributed to a relief fund for its employees.

Kiwanis helped send the state champion Bucks to the national basketball tournament in Chicago and the state champion debate...
team to the national tournament in Florida. Other service activities have included sponsoring Cub Pack, Boy Scout, and Explorer Post Troops, sending boys to boys' State and children to diabetic camps, helping victims of fire and flood, paying for glasses, operations, and dental work for children and old people, supporting the swim team, Little League baseball, the Indian basketball tournament, Y.M.C.A. basketball tryout entries. Yankton College Fine Arts Conference and summer music camp, the summer public school enrichment program, and the community cleanup.

In 1968 under the leadership of A.E. Kapitan Kiwanis helped start a Junior Leaders program, which extended from an after school football project run by Tom Osborn, Y.C. student, to arts, crafts and athletics with 30 college students working without pay with 300 boys and girls. Several years later the city recreation department and Little League baseball took over many of the activities. A banquet honoring scholastic achievement at Yankton and Mt. Marty high schools was started by Kiwanis. It is still continued at Yankton High school with Kiwanis as a co-sponsor. The Yankton Area Youth Center and the Area Adjustment Training Center have received aid from Kiwanis. Loan funds have been set up at Yankton and Mt. Marty Colleges for free interest emergency aid for students.

Kiwanis has helped in the Salvation Army Christmas bell ringing for local needs. For several years we financed a Circle K service club at Mt. Marty. We furnish cash prizes for 4-H Club achievements and aided in the financial drive to restore lights to Riverside Park, and are now in a six year program to provide $3000, for a pediatrics room at the new Regional Hospital. In addition to thousands of hours given freely by Kiwanians the service projects involved thousands of dollars for these worthy causes. Funds have been raised by sales of candy and peanuts, gum ball machines, a magic show (setting $100.00), home talent plays, pancake feeds, travelogues, and direct assessment of members. The most successful money raiser has been the Harvest Turkey Dinner, which for many years has been a social and financial success, one member raising $10,345 in the project.

Yankton hosted the district convention in 1932 with Ernest Stone as president and in 1963. Kiwanis was organized in 1925 and the club was incorporated in 1926 with Glen Bachman as president and Rev. Walter Buss as president-elect. That year saw the recognition of "Kiwanian of the Week" and the inclusion of world leaders in the programs, such as Ambassador Nehru of India and Ambassador Tsang of China.

Our Golden Anniversary was celebrated in 1973 under the presidency of Odin Rathgeb, Jr., and it was a very impressive anniversary committee and compiled a fifty year history of the club. The banquet was attended by 200 people and was held in the new conference center in Warren Campus Center, named after Dr. Henry Warren. A special event was the presentation of the Yankton College and charter member of our club. Rev. Orlan Mitchell was toastmaster, later becoming president of Yankton College, following in the footsteps of Dr. Joseph Ward, who was the first college president of the Congregational Church to become the first president of Y.C. Three charter members were recognized; George Garvey, 67, first president; Dr. B.F. Lockwood, 89, first secretary; and Dr. Thomas Bowman, 80. All were still active in their work. Special music was by Barbara Guthmiller, Miss Yankton College and later a finalist in the Miss America contest. Honored posthumously was Freeman Otto as Yankton Citizen of the Year. Kiwanian for 34 years was active in Boy Scout work, state welfare, originator of Student Government Day, and business and educational leader. The award was accepted by Mrs. Otto, daughter of a charter member of the club. This award has been won four times by Kiwanians; Joseph Vinatieri, 1970, Harold Levinger, 1975; and Dr. and Mrs. J. Lafren Wees, 1985.

District Governor Carl Adams of Rochester, Minnesota and Governor-Elect Dr. Stanley Sundell of Brookings spoke at the banquet. In 1985 the 60th anniversary of the club was celebrated with Myron Van Geper as president and Mike Rosset as chairman. The speaker was Joan Burney of Hargrington. Irish Test, district officer and member of the Mitchell Club, who was a sponsor of the Yankton Club, also spoke. Glen Bachman again wrote a history of the club. Widows of Kiwanians were guests at the banquet, Mrs. Lee Cope responding for them.


Last year's contributors from the club include Eldon Clark, Chester Beaver, J. Leon- ard Feldman, Albert Herrboldt, Glen Bach- man, Allen Harms, Don Moderger, and Alvin Leuthauser, who was also district chairman of several committees in Iowa. Bachman was also president of the Mitchell club and district chairman of membership and major emphasis. Jim Cowles was presi- dent of the Miller club.

Our club still dedicated to our motto, "We Build", with major emphasis this year on "Uplift Underprivileged Children". We received a grant and a chip for outstanding service to the Special Olympics. Our other themes include Carol "Bad" Allen, Lloyd Aten, Robert Bennett, Theodore Blakely, Frank Branaugh, Phil Dohn, Ray- mond Donald, Paul Grueskin, George Heathbery, David Hunhoff, David Knudsen, Ray Larson, Jerry Lien, Alvin Leuthauser, Harold Levinger, Joe Matteckich, John Nies, Harold Nyberg, Dr. Wm. Quick (1st Vice President), Michael Rosset, LuVerne Ries, Jack Sather (Director), Daniel Schenk, Rev. James Schwartz, Larry Somer, Rev. Dwight Stenadl, Howard Spenz (3rd Vice Presi- dent), John Stone, Floyd Thompson, Harold Tisher, Myron Van Geper, James Voll, Dr. David Zar.

by Glen Bachman

YANKTON SERTOMA CLUB T213

The Yankton Sertoma Club, an affiliate of the Sertoma International organization, was chartered in the spring of 1966 and consisted of twenty-five local businessmen as the first members. It was organized through the efforts of the Sioux Falls, South Dakota and the Norfolk, Nebraska Sertoma Clubs.

The name Sertoma is derived from the foundation of the club and the basis for which it was formed — Service to Mankind. The home office for Sertoma International is located in Kansas City, Missouri and local clubs exist in Mexico, Canada, and the United States. The Sertoma clubs' main sponsorship on the international level has been provided for and promote advancements in the field of speech and hearing. Sertoma clubs have established and supported clinics across the country with the closest clinic to Yankton being located at Boyston, Nebraska. There, people of all ages, income and backgrounds can go for diagnosis and receive treatment for speech and hearing problems and disorders.

In addition to supporting speech and hearing in Yankton with the conducting of hearing tests and clinics, and providing funding to the Yankton school system for testing equipment, hearing and transmitting devices for students and teachers, the local Sertoma club, since its beginning, has become well-known for many other community con- tributions. The active members of the Yankton Sertoma Club are continually donating time and money, or both, to many various projects and goals, all for the betterment of their community.

Over the years, the Yankton Sertoma Club has been involved with raising thousands of dollars for various projects and number of projects for community programs which are too numerous to mention. In addition to their speech and hearing efforts, the club is probably most recognized for their leadership in founding the Little League baseball pro- gram as it is known today and the undertak- ing of organizing and "leading the charge" for the development of 20 acres of land into a complex that is now known as Sertoma Park. Sertoma Park was the first in the State that the club helped to create, and through that community effort, a much needed goal could be met. Initially a ball field complex, the park area now offers picnic, playground and exercise facilities for all ages. Built in 1976, Sertoma Park has become a focal point for the community during the summers. In addition to promoting and developing projects within the city, the Sertoma Club also recognizes and rewards the members who are active in the community. Annually, the Service to Mankind Award is presented to a very deserving person who has shown many of the characteristics and as stated in the Sertoma Creed, volunteer service they have (benefit others. Many of the winners have gone on to recog- nition from the Sertoma.

By 1985, the Yankton Sertoma Club had grown to nearly 70 members. Their continued efforts, good will, and wide range of int continued to be a "helping community of Yankton for years actively promoting their motto TO MANKIND.

by R.H.
SERTOMA CLUB

Sertoma Clubs, an affiliate of international organization, was started in 1924 and consists of local businessmen as the first was organized through the Yankton Falls, South Dakota and Dakota Sertoma Club. Sertoma is derived from the Latin word Sermo, meaning "voice," and the base and is an umbrella organization for local clubs. Each club's main sponsorship is at the local level to provide for advancements in the field of hearing. Sertoma clubs have supported clinics across the nation, held meetings with newspapers, Nebraska. There, in the background, was the teaching of deaf and hearing-impaired persons, the local needy, and assisting members of the Yankton school system for hearing and transmitted tests and teachers. The local Sertoma Club was continually donating money to both, to many various causes, all for the betterment of the area.

The Yankton Sertoma Club has emphasized the raising of thousands of dollars for the construction of the new Sertoma Park. Located at the east side of Yankton, the park was dedicated in 1978, it has a point for the community users. The park features a playground and exercise equipment. Built in 1978, it has an area dedicated to community users.

Sertoma Club individuals that have been community members. Annually, the Sertoma Club presents the Sertoma Award to a person who has shown many of the characteristics and qualities that are stated in the Sertoma Creed, that being the volunteer service they have contributed to benefit others. Many of the local award winners have gone on to receive statewide recognition from the Sertoma organizations. By 1985, the Yankton Sertoma Club had grown to nearly 70 members and through their continued efforts, goal-achieving abilities, and wide range of interests, it will continue to be a "helping hand" to the community of Yankton for years to come, actively promoting their motto — SERVICE TO MANKIND.

by Roger L. Pierce

THE PIONEER MOTHER

We owe much to these early settlers of the Minnesota Pine-forest, more than any of us will ever know. In order to appreciate, for in order to reap the fruits of our labor, we must bear the marks of the struggle. Others live in the growing maturity of the new generation who came here and were born and grew up in the midst of the struggle. This is the story of one such family who lived all that came from Norway coming to America in the year 1880.

Marit Nyseth was born Jan 11th, 1850, in Opdal Norway. Her father was Nyseth and her mother was Oda Datter Rosseth. Marit had two brothers. They were brother and sister: Marit Lien and Agnes. She married her sister Kari and Iver Olaug Nyseth, who came on the same ship as Marit. Kari Tuftaker, her husband, was born in 1870. Sister Ingeborg later married Arnt Tove and another sister who was married to Per Olaug Tove.

Yes there were two sisters named Marit. Marit is Mary was not at all unusual for two sisters to have the same name. It was quite common in Norway, and little Mary or Little John was common.

Marit was a faithful, loving wife. She was a mother of three children: Ole, Peder, and Kari. She was also a daughter of Ole Johnson, after his death. Her mother, Marit's first husband was Ole Johnson, after his death. Her first wife, Ida, was a kind and gentle woman, loved by all who knew her. She was a bit of a mystery to those who didn't know her, but those who did knew her as a kind and gentle soul.

Her children were Pa's kids, as well as their own. They were cousins before they were born.
THE PIONEER MOTHER

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We owe much to these women of the Prairies, more than any of us will ever be able to appreciate, for in order that we can, and are now reaping the fruits of victory today, many had to be sacrificed and perished early in the struggle. Others lived to see the growing maturity of the community. But these bear the marks of the struggle within.

This is the story of one such mother she out lived all that came from Norway in the second coming of the Norsemen to America, about the year 1869.

Marit Nyvaether was born January 12, 1844, in Opdal Norway. Her father was Iver Olson Nyvaether and her mother was Ingeborg Sivert Derre Boaseter. Marit has two sisters, and two brothers. They are brother Ole who is first wife was Marit Lien and after her death he married her sister Kai. And brother Sivert Iverson Nyvaether who came over in 1869 and married Kai Tuftaker. He died in Yankton in 1878. Sister Ingeborg who was married to Arnt Tove and another sister named Marit who was married to Peder Hagen.

Yes their were two sisters with the same name of Marit. Marit is Mary in English. It was not at unusual for two children of the same family to have the same name in those days. It was quite common to have a Big Mary and Little Mary or Big John and Little John.

Marit was a faithful wife and bore five children for I.S. Fagerhaug. They were daughter Ei, who married Andrea Grundt. Son Iver who married Ada Johnson, daughter of Ole Johnsen, after their death he married Mrs. Nellie Haugland Johnson a widow. Nellie's first husband was Herman Johnson, brother to Iver, Iver's first wife. Now this may sound like a bit of confusion and so it is, for this is one of those situations that brought about the old joke of, "Pa Your kids and My kids are fighting Our kids." But this goes one farther for you see Pa's kids and Mo's kids were cousins before they became brother and

sisters to our kids. Son Sivert who married Clara Roe, after her death he later married Mrs. Martina Johnson, widow of Bert John- sen.

Daughter Ida who never stayed made home with her aging parents till their death. Daughter Oline who married Bertrin Hau- gland brother of Nellie Haugland Fagerhaug, another purse. Olina and Iver were brother and sister, Nellie and Bertin Haugland were brother and sister, so Iver and Nellie's kids, Helmer, Norway, and Donald, and Olina and Bertrins kids Myrtle, Mrs. Sigurd Dahl are double cousins.

The I.S. Fagerhaug homestead is about 12 miles south of what we know as Swan Lake. Four miles south of the I.S. homestead on Turkey Creek at what is now known as the Dewey Withers farm, two families were massacred in the fall of 1867. The one family was known as Owls, the name of the other, has been lost with the passing of years. Nels and Hannah Olson homesteaded the Withers farm in the Spring of 1863 three years after the massacre. Their Granddaughter Mrs. Carl Johnson told me this story of how Grandma Olson was so uneasy in the new land and she never felt secure or at ease.

For a woman even more than a man the social ties of life mean a great deal. Our pioneer Mothers left their home relations, Kindred and neighbors close around them to be set down on a lonely prairie cut off from all the relationships that held childhood and womanhood. Even where there were neighbors, or soon came to be, they were strangers and often spoken a strange tongue. So for them there were many long days and weary years of isolation and loneliness. And those whom they had known and loved long ago, but now could never again see or heard. They did have the warmth of the family hearth, and the comfort of the cabin. They lived in self sufficient community, and although they might be backbreaking work, they were content.

Then, too, some had left very comfortable homes, where they had always had the necessary equipment for ordinary house-keeping. Here for years they had to do with little and many times nothing. The average newcomer's larder from which the Pioneer Mother and Father had to get the three meals a day, was generally corn meal with more or less wheat flour, more often less, and most times none at all; fat salt pork, at least a part of the time; milk in considerable quantity both for cook- ing, and drinking in place of tea or coffee, and for making a number of dishes, made almost exclusively from milk. Butter they generally had, but as that was about the only thing they had to sell it had to be consumed, and lard, or a mixture of lard and molasses was used instead. There were eggs, or came to be but while used more or less, they, too, had to go toward getting such few groceries as could be afforded. The common shopping list read as follows, coffee, sugar, a little kerosene for one small lamp, and last but not least for many of the men tobacco. Salt pork usually fried, corn meal in some form such as mug or bread, and pork and beans. The Lord or part of the days was a meal a day winter and summer. This is not to say there were always abundant but rather it was these or nothing at all.

The fuel with which to prepare this food was easier for if they were free of them, was bought in summer from cow chips, and later on, when they began to raise corn, corn cobs. Hay was the principal fuel, and huge piles of it was required to do much cooking or heating. For one had to keep stuffing it into the stove continually to get any hot fire. Picture to yourself a room, a bed, house, dog- out or log house about 12 ft. by 14 ft., which was kitchen, sitting room, bedroom, and everything else combined. The hay, as was the case in winter time, would cover a large part of the floor and raise continual dust. The stove would get full of ashes in a short time and if the hay was damp, there was smoke, lots of it. In such a place, with such conveniences the Pioneer mother had to solve the problem of three meals a day and do all their other work besides. Is it strange then, that many of these women who came to find a new and, as they supposed, a better home, found instead an early grave and what was worse, some lost their minds.

Let us now go to the year 1915, it was one of those ideal summer days when mother sun shone benignly on the children of men and made our way pleasant as we go across the prairie. The gently waving corn fields gave promise of a rich harvest. One cannot help but think of the contrast these fields present to the way they must have looked some years ago. One would have to say that these fields owed some of their beauty to the time in which we now see them. The way into the Fagerhaug farm runs along the banks of the Turkey Creek where the woods in rich profusion create a scene of beauty. The farm lies on the lea side of the woods toward the north. The trees and the bushes crowd the two sides of the creek's banks.

We are met in the yard by Ida, the daughter who has always remained at home. She is a tall and strong bodied woman of sixty two years of age. We follow her in, soon we were in the parlors, where Ida has spent many years of her life, busy herself in the kitchen preparing something for her guests.

We are sitting in the kitchen Marit Fagerhaug, her wonderful memory and strong personality, somehow, seemed to get all the older the years of age. We had stood face to face with one of the "worthies" of the old days, one that the prairies had not been able to bring to her knees but that somehow before whom the prairies themselves had bowed and yielded. She is a remarkable old lady with a strong frame with its rugged, intelligent face. Could she really be 85 years? For a moment we are a bit overwhelmed by such vitality and spiritual strength. It wasn't only her appearance but also the intelligence and wisdom that our visit reveals that impresses us.

In November 1952 we again visited Marit Fagerhaug, she seemed as happy and strong as the year before. Bible verses and hymn stanzas she could recite as easily as if they had been learned that very day. This ability to repeat passages as well as the strength that comes from them keep many a pioneer mother strong.

On January the year after Mrs. Fagerhaug had observed her 80 birthday she wrote a short note to the effect that her health wasn't quite as good as usual. She also expressed the prayer that God would watch in mercy over whatever happens in the days to come. And may and too: The Lord or part of the days was the three meals a day summer and winter. This is not to say there were always abundant but rather it was these or nothing at all.

The fuel with which to prepare this food was easier for if they were free of them, was bought in summer from cow chips, and later on, when they began to raise corn, corn cobs. Hay was the principal fuel, and huge piles of it was required to do much cooking or heating. For one had to keep stuffing it into the stove continually to get any hot fire. Picture to yourself a room, a bed, house, dog- out or log house about 12 ft. by
THE GREAT SNOW WINTER OF 1880 AND 1881

The winter of 1880-81 was the worst suffered on the prairie as to the amount of snow they had. That was the winter that Halvor and Ike Solheim had their ranch dahl. Once during the winter the mail for a long time was held up at Yankeston because of the severe weather. Finally Halvor began to think, it had been long enough for him to say, "No letters to do," for them who came from Yankeston. One day in the morning Ingebright Fagerhau came on skis; Halvor asked if he could borrow the skis and would U.S. attend to the store while he went to Yankeston. Halvor then set out to ski the 18 miles to Yankeston where he found 20 cents had been left to ad- dress to Maridahl. He couldn't carry all of it; of, course, but took what he could. He later stated that his bed never felt so good as it did that evening.

This has already been referred to as the terrible snow winter. May I add a few words, in order to understand what followed in the spring of 1881?

The snow a three day's snow storm or blizzard came October 15, 1880. The snow never left but kept piling up without thawing until the snow fell. During the whole winter world was completely cut off after the first of January 1881. This, of course, made many provisions unobtainable. Many times in the outlying country places the settlers could not get to provisions even if they were available. Many times there was nothing to sell, so no money for buying.

Many and more were the lamentations be- cause of the lack of this one commodity, and many the devices to get it. A man can live without coffee, sugar, and what bread to not speak of less necessary things, but tobacco—well you can't do anything more to help after that.

As can easily be seen, when this vast quantity of snow began to go out, especially so late in the spring, it created a flood. The waters tore through the area, and created destruction everywhere in its path. Every creek became a raging river; the rivers became more and more vast moving lakes. So if communication with towns had been difficult before, it became well nigh impossible now. The whole Missouri bottom became one vast and roaring sea, coming up to the bluffs of the present towns of Mission Hill, and Volin. Cattle and pigs were carried by the flood and deposited here and there. One could smell the rotting flesh way out on the prairie; the small stream became raging rivers that swept along bridges, houses and much more. One day a stable came sailing along and landed at Yankeston. In the stable a horse was tied; he had plenty to eat on this trip so he was none the worse for it. In good season his owner was found. Big logs and planks came drifting along; if one could secure them he would have enough to build a house.

But yet, can such a little thing as fourteen miles of roaring water and floating debris stand between a man and his tobacco, or a woman and her cup of coffee, especially when she is the only thing available in a luxury? No: By the shades of all our Viking Ancestors NO: After looking over their possible resources of men and materials for the undertaking of defying the angry flood, they called Ole Solheim, whose wife was from Turkey Creek, a few remnants of lumber. They also found Anders Olen had had a little enterprise in boat building, and Ole Johnson was an ex-fisherman and thus could row a boat. So, we set off to build a boat. We built it, as it was mentioned and other such as Ingebright Fagerhau, who was a carpenter and Stein- grim Hinsell, the boat was built. It was crude of course, and leaky, yet was counted sea- worthy because the situation was getting very critical. We had to be saved and we could not let personal and private needs be the only motive of these men. For some of the leaders of this enterprise like Ole Solheim and I.S. Fagerhau had no need or use for tobacco, but their neighbor's needs were so much in need of aid in the heart and hand.

When the craft was finished Steingrim Hinsell hauled the boat and men, Ole Solheim, Ingebright Fagerhau, Thore Fossum, and Ole Johnson, to the foot of the bluff, a couple of miles northwest of Volin, where the boat was launched. The cargo was all that the little craft could carry, consisting of many differ- ent types of hogs and eggs. These belong- ing to many different parties, debating the only thing they had sell were, to be exchanged for the general needs of the community. When the cargo was all in, and the crew embarked they were about two inches left of bottom. All the water line and a very little stick or else, besides, with true Viking spirit they struck out on the angry flood to move towards Yankeston. Their they were able to do the necessary shopping for the whole neigh- borhood. They left three days before the launching they were back without mishap.

In Yankeston rationing had to be imposed on sugar, coffee, and other imported goods since the town was quite cut off from the outside world. The railroad tracks were washed out between Yankeston and Sioux City, the work of repairing the damages gave a lot of work to the newcomers in the area.

This story of the Winter of 1880-81 is too confused to be blizzarded of 1888, that was a different time and situation.

by Constance Fagerhau

A LAND OF PROMISE TO A HOMESTEADER T216

Mrs. Mikkel Bak begins her writings by telling about her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Andersen, who came to America from Denmark when they were young. Conditions in Denmark were poor, and not much promise, for them so wanted to come to America which was called "The Land of Promise" to homestead here.

Some families had already left their home land to come across the ocean, and from their reports, heard things looked real good. They came to Chicago when they located a farm and lived for eight years. We were four in our family, two girls and two boys. First came a little brother, but he didn't live very long. Two years later my sister Marie was born, and then came another brother, a healthy empty place of my little brother. Then in another two years, one more little brother was born, but before long, he too was placed in the cemetery beside the first one, so my dear parents felt the pains of sorrow soon.

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Another fear was the prairie fires, quite frequent. This is one day. Mother, alone with u watching it come closer and closer.

One day my parents in their daughter's in- Denmark heard about all her hardships they wanted her to come back again, so she sold all she had and got ready to leave, it was not easy to go alone with a little four year old, and also to leave the three graves, the dear ones she had resting. But go she must, and after a three weeks stormy voyage they finally arrived. She was welcomed, mother was the first to step out, she was the one who stepped out, she was the one who stepped out, in my grandfather's and grandmother's home I was born September 24, 1877. Soon after I was born my family moved back to the southwest of Volin, much to the joy of our families in the Watches they passed by.

The Indians distance from our home; it Yankeston and went to Sioux we had to get along, although the earlier settlers didn't always had to see them coming.

So the years passed by a team of oxen and a father walked barefooted t. We left early Monday morning and the trip was so far that it reached his sh Saturday evening after what he carried a sack of flour of 18 miles. Poor fu it was a very hot Thursday in those pioneer days.

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So the years passed by a team of oxen and a
started across the ocean for America. We came to Chicago and stayed for two years and then left for South Dakota and homesteaded in Yankton. We were thirty years old in 1881.

One of the worst fires was that of the Winter of 1880-81. It was a terrible fire that year. The homesteads were all in flames. The wind was blowing from the west and the smoke was thick. The women and children were all in tears. We had no help, and we had to save our own homes.

The children from the neighborhood all had small fires, but they were all safe. One mother was worried about her little girl starting out for home, so she thought she would go and meet her, leaving three little ones at home saying: “I will come back later.” Next morning after the storm had subsided some neighbors went to search. When they came to the house where the mother had left, and found the three little ones in bed. “They want our mommy” and not from the house the mother had found, from the house the mother had found, from the house the mother had found. It was a storm never to be forgotten by those who had seen it.

The years went by; their daughters all married and established our own homes, and the little girl that nearly lost her life in the fire was now a young woman and married.

We have a family of eight children of which two have passed away; namely, Alfred and Esther in early childhood. Those living are: Isabelle, Mrs. William Stark, Niels P. Hansen; Mabel – Mrs. Melvin Bak; Oliver; Father – Mrs. Melvin Eveson and Arthur.

When the children were young we would travel home for holidays. Then we went to church, mother and children would sit on one side in the pew and father on the opposite; men and women would never sit together.

In the 1900’s we had terrible dust storms, so dusty at times the day was as dark as night, and very little in crops as no rain was received. The hog cholera was another misfortune. I remember we harvested loads of hogs which were ready for market but died from the cholera.

One year the grasshoppers took over; corn fields were stripped with only a few inches of the stalks remaining not even enough for food or fodder. Although there have been hardships, trials, and sorrows, God has been with us through it all. Let us trust He and ask for guidance, and He will see us through.

by Mrs. Mikkel Bak

WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE WHEN I WAS A TEENAGER

Somehow it is hard to compare all the changes that have taken place. One might refer to transportation, as the one item that has been the greatest change. When one thinks of walking to school as compared to going by bus, then returned home the same way after school is dismissed — a wonderful improvement.

Cooking was done on the old wood-burning range, using wood or cobs for fuel. Now the gas or electric stoves have replaced the old wood-burning range. The changes are wonderful improvements compared to how it was.

When I was a teenager, we had no radio or television to turn on. We made our own music — violin or piano. I had piano instruction by a private teacher. Some in our family had piano and violin instruction at Yankton College.

In short, there was no ready-made entertainment as we know it now on television and radio.

Winter time was skiing when the ice on the James River was thick enough.

Summer time was boating and fishing time. Rowing was human effort. We had no motorized boats.

Somewhere, I do not regret the hardships. It takes some trying times to appreciate the good times.

by Delia Snow
Fifty years ago, if you were in a Norwegian community — between Christmas and New Year, you may have had a visit of the "Yula Boks" or "Christmas Fools." In this age Halloween parties have people wearing masks and peculiar clothing which would somewhat compare to the "Yula Boks" or "Christmas Fools," of fifty years ago.

The young people and also some of the older people would put a flour sack over their head (by the way they used to buy baking flour in 50 pound cloth sacks back in those days) then they would cut holes in the sack so they could see, put some lip stick on the sack where the mouth would be, sometimes a big brown or an unusual smile, maybe use a kettle for a hat. They would wear big clothes. Then they would put a knife inside the clothes so they would either have a big stomach or a big rear.

Usually the women would dress like men and some of the smaller framed men would dress in women's clothes. The idea was to try to dress up masked, so when you called on your neighbor, they would have to guess who was who and who neighbor came to visit you.

The "Christmas Fools" or "Yula Boks" were always treated to some cookies or a strong drink or homemade wine. Usually they would take off their masks if you guessed who they were or before they would leave to go to the next neighbor's house.

We have three "Yula Boks" come to our house for New Year's, the one because he was a big person, and it was pretty hard for him to disguise himself, but the other two had Santa Claus masks, and they were dressed with ragged old clothes — one had his overalls on, and the other leg was cut off at the calf of the leg.

The crazier you could dress, the more the people would laugh when you would come to visit. These three "Yula Boks" or "Christmas Fools" were sitting; they never talked much, as they didn't know how to pronounce their voice. So of them then decided to have a cigarette, and when he lit the cigarette, they put it on fire, so he had to jerk off the mask real quick, to get the fire out of his mask. That made the other two burst out laughing, so then, we knew for sure who they were. One was my cousin, Gutt Olson; the other two were brothers — Sidney and Morris Knudtson. Morris Knudtson said "That day Fool would have to have a cigarette and spoil the suspense." If there would be a few people to start out with, by 11:00 p.m. there would be quite a bunch, as each place they would visit, usually someone from that place would put some kind of goofy costume and join in with the rest of them, and come 11:00 o'clock p.m. they would more than likely end up with a house dance in someone's home.

If you could have a visit of "Yula Boks" or "Christmas Fools" between Christmas and New Year, your family would feel like they were left out of some of the fun during the Holiday Season. If they show up one day, they would dress up like that now in the year of 1985, I'm sure I would call the Sheriff, thinking that they masked to do harm or evil instead of having fun fooling your neighbor at Yuletime as they did years ago.

by Owen Hill

WHEN A FARMER WENT TO TOWN IN THE YEARS OF THE 1920S

Most of the farmers would go to town once a week to buy in a 30 dozen egg case and a can of sour cream to get money to purchase a supply of groceries. The eggs were usually sold at the grocery store where groceries were bought. The cream to a creamery. Once a month a 50 pound sack of baking flour was bought. The flour was used to make bread, cakes, pancakes, waffles, and many families would make a milk mush. This was made by using flour and milk, a little salt and cooking these ingredients together until it was thick, then it was served on a dinner plate and on the mush was sprinkled cinnamon, sugar in the center or middle of the mush a tablespoon of butter was put in then, with each tablespoon of mush to be eaten; mush was dipped into this butter.

The cream can was usually put on the running board of the car, and the cream can was strapped to the hinge of the car door; some rural people had on their car running boards, a running board carrier. The running board carrier would fold up on the car running board so it wasn’t much longer than 12 inches but would unfold to the length of the running board. There cream can and the 30 dozen egg case would be put when going to town and returning home again; if there was more room left some of the groceries would be put there also.

In those days to go grocery shopping to the store your order would be told to a store clerk who wrote your order down on store order book. When you had other shopping to do — the clerk put your order up and when you came back to the grocery store your groceries were all done and ready for you to take home.

In the summer when the farmers were busy, the family would usually always go on a Saturday night. The creamery and all the stores would be open for business especially on 3rd street in Yankton. From Douglas Avenue to High Street on a Saturday night it was almost impossible to get a place to park your car after 7:00 o’clock p.m. as everybody wanted to park their cars to be close to the stores and when they would get their shopping done, they would sit in their cars and watch the people walking by on the street seeing their neighbor friends or other acquaintances to talk with.

Most farm families would begin leaving for their homes about 11 o’clock p.m. Those that could afford to go to a movie would go home after the movie show was over. At one movie house, admission was 10 cents, and would show mostly Western shows; the other movie house charged 25 cents and would have a variety of movies showing, with about 10 minutes for news, plus a Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck comedy which was always humorous bringing good laughs.

by Owen Hill

Every family has its own holiday customs. In our house we had oyster stew and rice on Christmas Eve, as do many Norwegian-Americans. Sometimes the Church Christmas program followed, and when we were home again, the family gathered in the living room. We prepared the rice in the oven. We used to have a little of the rice on the tree. We remember also the candles on the tree were lit. We had to be very careful because the tree not catch fire. We thought that we were sophisticated when we had electric lights on the tree. Really, the soft candlelight was beautiful.

Then we hung up our stockings for Santa to fill. The next morning, when we were still in bed looking at our gifts, Dad always came and tossed in package saying, “Here’s something Santa forgot to put in your stocking.” There was something feminine and pretty for Mom and his girls.

Then there was New Year’s Eve when we each put a slice in the window for the Green Santa to fill. This was a custom my Grandmother Lee brought from Norway. Generations of cousins still observe this extra holiday fun.

The night before Easter, after our bath, we made our nets of clothes. The “long johns” of the time helped make a neat nest. Such small customs help make a happy home.

Our parents used loving discipline with us. When we girls were quarreling or crying, Dad would take a toothpick and say he would spank us or he would say he would add flour to our tears and make pancakes. If we banged our feet and carried on tearfully, he would spank the chair with a toothpick that hurt us. Pretty soon we were giggling.

Isn’t it great when new stories come back to us? A vignette! remember vividly my mother making doughnuts while Dad is sitting at the kitchen table watching her and chatting. The butter and a knife are on the table. Mother gives him some hot doughnuts. He butter them and says, “I can’t decide if I like them” — and several doughnuts later says, “No, I don’t like them.” Here is my mother’s recipe:

Doughnuts
4 cups sifted flour, 4 teaspoons baking powder, ½ teaspoon salt, ¼ teaspoon nutmeg, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup milk, 2 eggs well beaten, ¾ teaspoon lemon extract, 2 tablespoons melted butter or other shortening.


by Vivian H. Juel

HOLIDAY CUSTOMS

by Owen Hill

THE 1926 MOD T FORD COUPE

The photo shows a 1926 Coupe that I bought from a student by the name of Craig Mr. and Mrs. Harold Tula in Lawrence, Kansas. I was coming home from a brother-in-law, Otto Jureck, Ford Coupe sitting in the yard. The "S" sign on the car. We didn’t before I had need to stop an of this Ford coupe, I was afr of a "Big Prize" so that I could to buy this Model 1926 Ford c stopped to ask Craig how much wanted for this car. I am quite a lot of work on this c $500.00 for it. When I got home I why did you want to spend foolishly when you could h
THE 1926 MODEL T FORD COUPE

The photo shows a 1926 Model T Ford Coupe that I bought from a young college student by the name of Craig Fisher, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Tisher of Yankton. Harold Tisher was a local pharmacist.

I was coming home from church with my brother-in-law, Otto Juracek, and we saw this Ford Coupe sitting in the yard with a "For Sale" sign on the car. We circled the block before I had nerve to stop and ask the price of this Ford coupe. I was afraid it was going to be a "Big Price" so that I couldn't afford to buy this Model 1926 Ford coupe. When we stopped to ask Craig how much money he wanted for this car, Craig said he had done quite a lot of work on this car, so he asked $800.00 for it. When I got home, my dad said why did you want to spend your money so foolishly when you could have spent your money for something more worthwhile.

I think Craig Tisher was lucky driving this car from Aberdeen, South Dakota to get it here to Yankton, the shape it was in, the low band on the low gear was almost no good, I asked Craig what he would have done if he'd had to shift to low to get up a hill; he told me if he couldn't have made the hill in high gear, he would have backed the car down the hill and backed up the hill, as the reverse band on the reverse gear was still good, but Craig told me he made all the hills on the high gear.

Driving a Model T Ford, you would start the engine on battery, but first you would adjust the spark lever up on the left side of the steering column and then put the gear lever on the right side of the steering column about 3/4 of the way down, and after the motor was running, you would adjust the spark lever down till the motor would run smoothly. If you wouldn't put the spark lever up when starting the motor, the motor would kick back when cranking the car, and one could break their arm from the cranking, as the spark lever adjusted the timing of the spark for gasoline.

When you would start the forward motion, you would release the hand brake, and press on the left pedal on the floor which was the low pedal and when it was going forward fast enough, you would let the left pedal come back and then the car would be in high gear. When you wanted to reverse, you would press the left pedal half way, which was neutral, then you would press down on the middle pedal which was reverse. The floor pedal farthest to the right was the braking pedal.

The wide 1926 Model T Ford did not come equipped with a starter or a generator. A "Hot Shot" battery was used for starting the motor and after the motor was running, you would switch the key over to magneto that was built around the fly wheel. In the early models, the magneto also supplied the electricity for the lights, and if the motor got pulled down to slow, the lights would get so dim that a person had to shift into low gear, so the magneto would generate more electricity.

The Model T Ford car motor was used for almost everything on a farm, from grinding feed, sawing wood, to even an attachment that could be bought to make fit on the frame and body to make a tractor.

There were hundreds of accessories that were made that could be used on the Model T Ford and also there was much humor that the Model T Ford was used for; in the movies the car was used for comedy and also many jokes about the Model T Ford were used, for instance, "That's one of the jokes."

A Model T Ford was going down a very muddy country road, when the driver of the Model T Ford came to a big limeousse stuck in the mud, so the driver of the Model T Ford took a stick and pulled the big limeousse out of the mud. The owner of the big limeousse said to the driver of the Model T Ford: "That is a powerful machine you have there, what is it called?" The driver in the Ford said it is a Model T Ford. The owner of the limeousse said "I guess I will have to get one for my tool box." Another joke about the Model T Ford car that it served as a good family car; it had a car for father, a hood for mother, and a rattle for the baby.

by Owen Hill

GROWING UP AS A YOUNG PERSON IN THE EARLY YEARS OF 1900-1910

This story I'm writing to give credit and honor to my mother and father. Grand Hill was my father; my mother's name Regina Hill, her maiden name was Regina Geraldson. My mother grew up on the farm that her grandfather homesteaded near the James River off Highway 81. Life was very simple on the farm when she grew up; she used to tell our children that she got to go to town about twice a year. The children were supposed to stay home and help with the work on the farm. She said how she would help her mother with the clothes in the Jim (James) River, which flowed close to the home. She also said in the early years the Jim River water was clear, not muddy like it is now in 1985.

She would also tell how her brother Telfer Geraldson and herself would milk 30 cows, by hand. The cows were put in pen in about 100 feet square, and the cows were milked loose not tied, nor in a corner. On the cows were trained to be milked this way. Some cows were good, and some would like to kick about the time the cow was finished and the milk was often kicked on the ground. A homemade milk can was used to sit on to do the milking job.

After the cows were milked, the milk was put into cream cans, and then mother would harness up a horse and hitched the horse to a buggy or buckboard and took the milk to a place called Hansen Store, which was about four miles from where we lived. They would separate the milk, and she would haul the separated milk home to give to the hogs. Most farmers did not have cream separators in those days, so that is why she had to go to the Hansen Store to get the milk separated. The Hansen Store was located 1 mile east and about 1/4 mile north of the junction of Highway 81 and Highway 46. My mother said their entertainment after the day's work was done, was playing games with her sisters and brothers, or helping her mother probably to stitch a quilt that was made from old clothes, I think they called the quilts, patch quits.

Mother said her father always wanted to have plenty of meat to eat for his family, so

The above photo shows my dad with the wood he cut for the stove, with an ax he didn't use a saw very much, being used to cutting wood in Norway with a wood ax. Taken in 1908.

by Owen Hill
This photo shows my dad's sisters and nephews, all dressed up, sitting in the buggy ready to go to church. The large photo that is atop the horse's harness was used in the summer time to help keep the flies that would suck blood off the horses, and when the nose flies were bad, they would have what was called a nose basket, which was a screened basket that went over the horses nose to keep the nose flies out of the horse's nose. L-R: Mrs. Sigrid (Hill) Green, Mrs. Theresa (Hill) Olson and her son sitting in front, Guis Olson.

When they butchered a beef they would have to cut the meat in small pieces and can the meat in fruit jars as that was the only safe way to keep meat; at that time there wasn't any kind of refrigeration on the farms back in the early years of the 1900's. My mother only got six years schooling. There were some young people back in those early years who got very little schooling.

When my mother was 18 years old, her mother and father sent her to Chicago for six months to take training to be a mid-wife. After she finished her training or schooling, she came back home and was called on to help deliver babies around the neighborhood of Midway Community also elsewhere.

My dad grew up in Norway, as a young child and man. He left Norway when he was 25 years old and came to the United States. When dad was 12 years old in Norway, he worked for a man herding cows in the mountains and other work on the farm. This man dad worked for also made coffins. One day he told my dad to go to a home where a man died and to measure the length of the dead man. My dad being only 12 years old was told that if he didn't go and measure the dead man, but if he hadn't gone, the man he worked for was a man that didn't hesitate to take a stick and give a young boy a whipping with a stick. My dad knew if he didn't go he would get a whipping so he went, but dad often told me how scared he was.

Dad went to grade school in Norway (Dad got eight years of schooling). If any of the pupils didn't do something wrong in school, the teacher who would usually be a man, would take the pupils that had done something wrong and give the pupil a good whipping with a stick. Dad said the pupils were very careful not to do anything that would provoke the school master, for fear of getting a spanking with a stick.

One of the first jobs my dad had when he came to the United States, was being hired by Joseph Anthon, a pioneer farmer in the Midway Community, to walk behind a walking plow to plow 25 acres. The plow had two handles on it to guide so it wouldn't overturn too much on too little soil. There were really two horses hooked to the plow, and if it was hard plowing, then there would be three horses hooked to the plow. The horse that followed the furrow from the plow would keep the others going straight, so the horses didn't have to be guided very little after they had been on the plow for a day or two.

I believe dad said his pay was one dollar a day with room and board, and dad said in those days that was very good pay for a day's wages.

My dad and mother often said growing up as a youth now in the 1960's, the children didn't have to work as hard as they did when they grew up on the farms in the early 1900's. This writing is dedicated to the hard work my father and mother experienced growing up in the early 1900's.

by Owen Hill and Edna Egers

GROWING UP ON THE FARM

I have an older sister Edna, and had an older brother Gerald that was a Marine in World War II, gave his life for his country on two Jima fighting the Japs. Japan attacked United States Pearl Harbor, being almost all of the Navy that was at Pearl Harbor, Hawaiian Islands at that time.

My two-sisters, my brother and myself grew up on the farm in the 1920's and early 1930's, so I thought I would share some of our experiences as a young child growing up on a farm.

Most farm children were expected to do some kind of a daily chore on the farm, after the age of five or six years.

My chores were to pick shell corn cobs for the cook stove, and in the winter time, shelled corn for the heating stove. The cook stove was fired mostly by shelled corn cobs and the heating stove either coal or wood was used.

Another job shared with my younger sister was to gather the eggs from the chickens coop, before it got dark at night. I remember I went to gather eggs one night, and I dropped an egg; the hens came running to eat the broken egg, so I figured if they liked the eggs, I would throw some more against the wall. Well, that was a feast for the hens, but when I came into the house, my mother disapproved of my kindness to the chickens, so never again did I do this kind deed for the chickens.

A young girl growing up on the farm was expected to set the table for meal time and also help dry the dishes after my mother washed them. In the summertime she would help her mother in the garden, hoeing and pulling the weeds in the garden.

A young boy helped Dad with horses; usually it would be feeding one gallon or more of whole oats in their feed boxes; each horse had its own feed box for their oats. Either Dad or my older brother would pitch the hay from the hay mow into the manger, so the horses could eat their oats and hay while milking the cows, and the rest of the chores were being done, and at noontime while we ate our noon meal. We had about 10 milk cows and there was always one cow that was gentle and easy to hand milk and when a boy or a girl on the farm became about 10 years old they were taught to milk this particular easy gentle milk cow and as the child became older they had two or three cows to milk. So much fun to squat milk in milk pails to our cows mouths when doing the milking. How they loved that milk. Turning the crank on the cream separator too was sometimes our chore.

Another thing most farm children did in the summer in the 1920's and 1930's (some of the years being drought years) was to herd cattle along the road ditches. Our neighbor Aage Ibsen offered me the job of herding his milk cows along the road ditches; he told me he would pay me ten cents an hour for herding his milk cows. I think I did it a week, I didn't want to do it longer because I didn't like this type of job, so my sister Shirley took over herding his milk cows. If I remember correctly, I think she did this job for a month. Most of the time we would ride while herding the cows.

For entertainment in the yard we would play with our pets on our farm; we would buy a dog or two and a cat and a kitten, or we would ride a horse on our farm.

Another thing we did then for fun in the winter would be take powdered sugar, make a snowman and a snow hill on our farm.

I remember Saturday, March 4th: we got a blizzard and after the snow was over, there was a creek close to my sister Shirley, and I went down to the creek that had steep banks and there was a stream on the bank and, of course, to jump off that ledge of snow. Jumped first, then I jumped but I was as far as she did, so I told her to jump we would make, I would jump before she did. I got up on the ledge before she did, tried to run away as far as possible, when I ran off the ledge the first thing I thought was that it was my sister's farm, but soon found out I was on a 6 ft. snow slide that had broken the ledge.

The only snow under that was a snow hill and a snow bank and I climbed up to the top of the hill and told my sister she jump. The next thing I knew was that we were playing when they went down. When I ran to the city to jump we would make, I knew it was my sister's farm. I could not explain where I was going. We were playing when they got me down, under the snow they told me I was in a snow slide and the only thing I could see was a blue from the lack of oxygen. I passed out and my sister had to walk me to the house.

The first thing I remember after I passed out was my sister telling me she had to walk me to the house. I was not able to talk or tell what happened.

My thanks for saving my life sister Shirley, who witnessed it all, my parents, and my brother Gerhard came out from under the snow and dog who smelled my overstiread snow so my family knew to start digging me out from under snow slide.

We were rarely taken to do chores, our chores were milk cows, sort chores, or colds. Would one home remedymedication. My mother was twice married.

Once I had a toothache, and I went to the dentist. The dentist took the tooth out, and told me to come back when without dental did that hurt, it took a lot of years and I knew the nerve to go to a dentist.

There are many good and bad, my childhood days growing up so I thought I would share just a
A group of people who were interested in starting a band: met at the R.J. Jlettale home sometime in 1958. As a result this was accomplished with a start of 15 or maybe more members and a decision to hire a Mr. Art Haring as director. At this time Mr. Haring was employed as a musician at the WNAX studio and they then presented "Live from Harvey Hill" every Sunday night. He was an accomplished cornet player and played in various groups there at the studio.

Names submitted to me by one of the charter members lists these persons as such: Margaret Gustad, Norma Burt, Julia Gustad, Julian Haag, Carol and Marvin Cook, Charley Johnson, Bert Solberg, Ollin and Chester Lien and Oscar C. Olson and maybe Millic Larson and Ione Preng.

As time passed the group grew and at one time possibly as many as forty-five played. An incomplete list of some of the additional
SOME OF THE VARIOUS ENTERTAINMENTS AND DANCE BANDS OF YANKTON COUNTY

There were various bands that originated out of Yankton County. These entertainments

"The Swingsters" L-R: Herb Mahoney, banjo; Phil Johnson, Saxophone; Curly Brady, Drum; Merlin Larsen, accordion; and Clinton Davis, piano.

"Haysbakers"

bands and dance bands some of them became popular for dances in the eastern part of the state of South Dakota and some of them also played for dances in Iowa and Nebraska.

Weik's Novelty Band.

First of the dance bands, I guess I would have to start with was Lawrence Weik. He came from North Dakota down to WNAX Radio Station looking for a chance to play his accordion and play for dances. He got a job at WNAX playing with his band, which at first was six musicians, and they were called "Weik's Novelty Band". Weik was based here in Yankton and played in a wide area in South Dakota as well as in Iowa and Nebraska in the early 1900's and gradually moved to bigger cities and eventually ended up on a national TV show for many years on Saturday nights and retiring from TV in the early 1980's.

Another early band that I used to hear people talk about, I guess, I did hear them also on WNAX a few times, but I was too young to remember what they were. The dance band was the "Joes". They played mostly Czech music polkas and waltzes. Some of the members were Joe Pajzar, Fred Peter Kaiser, Frank Kaiser, Ed Kudla Kaiser. I believe there was one woman, but I don't remember the name at this time of writing the information.

I guess one of the earliest date dance band in Yankton County was a band that Custer got together to play at the time in Yankton. It was said that they played for dances as well as dance halls. They also played over WNAX RI for many years and was well known in the area of Radio Station WNAX those days.

Another dance band that played and over WNAX were the "Roach Family. They were a family band. I guess was almost all members that were from the same area and they were all related. The band was called the accordion band, and they were also very popular in the area.

Then another band that played on WNAX was the "Al Jolson Band". They came from the Midwest to play on WNAX, and they were also in demand in the area where they played.

The Weik Band played with the accordion, they also played with the guitar, and they also played with the drums. Walter Davis played with the Weik Band, and they also played with the guitar. Carl Sanders played with the Weik Band, and they also played with the guitar. Carl Sanders played with the Weik Band, and they also played with the guitar.

Another group of music that played on WNAX was the "Joes". They played mostly Czech music polkas and waltzes. Some of the members were Joe Pajzar, Fred Peter Kaiser, Frank Kaiser, Ed Kudla Kaiser. I believe there was one woman, but I don't remember the name at this time of writing the information.
dance bands, I guess I would with was Lawrence Wall. He with Dakota down to WNAX looking for a chance to play his music for dance bands. He got a job with his band, which was as musicians, and they were called "y Band." Wall was based here in Yankton and worked for a number of years in the area that Radio Station WNAX covered in these days.

Another dance band that played for dances and over WNAX was the "Rivertown Kids." They were a family band. I believe the youngest daughter, Jamie Kosta used to sing some vocals and played with the band. They used to come to Yankton County about eight miles north of the present WNAX towers. They were also in great demand for wedding dances as well as for other dances. The members of this band were Carl and Mari, who was the accordion, and he also played the piano, brother Walter Davis played the violin, Alfred Kylius played the drums. Harvey Nelson played saxophone with the Davis Brothers wherever they asked him, and also Ole Hansen played the drums; he didn't play steady with them all the time.

Then the group that played a lot around the area was "Clarence Cowman and His CowHands." Clarence Cowman played the harmonica. Mrs. Violet Pickering played the piano; Lawrence Estgaard played the accordion. Fred Paulsen, the drums, and Ernie Hansen played the guitar. Clarence Cowman would get other people to play with the band, but at least one of this write up, I don't have complete information about all who played in the band.

Harvey Nelson, Ole Hansen, and Ernie Hansen would play with various dance bands as well as Clarence Cowman, who played with his accordion. Nels Jensen played violin. A dance band that played for a lot of weddings in Yankton County and covering other dances in the area from Sioux City to Sioux Falls and the "Big Bands." They were very popular in the 1950's up to the 1970's. Band members were Harold Mahoney playing the banjo; Clinton Davis playing the piano; Marilyn Larsen playing the accordion; and Jan Hohle playing the saxophone player, Phil Johnson. This group of musicians were in great demand in the area.

Another group of musicians were Law-
With the barn in the background, (see photo), this is the first barn dance that I attended. I was only five years old, when my Uncle Telford Geraldson brother of Mrs. Gust B. Hill, my mother, and my dad Gust B. Hill had a wedding anniversary. My uncle still single and a neighbor George P. Johnson planned to have a celebration on my parents for their wedding anniversary. My Uncle Telford Geraldson and George P. Johnson had a scheme planned. My uncle took my parents out for an evening meal at a restaurant. While they, my parents, were with my uncle, George P. Johnson and boys came down to this barn and pitched out all the hay, harnessed up a team of horses to a lumber wagon, and hauled the piano from his place down to the barn. The band consisted of a violin which George P. Johnson played; his daughters Ruth and Myrtle Johnson played the piano, and Oscar Brudvig played the banjo, and his brother Nels Brudvig played the saxophone. I was out to my grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Geraldson, and rode home with my mother's cousin Albert Hill, I was thrilled to ride in his Nash coupe which had two spare tires mounted one on each front fender; it had leather seats and oh all those dials on the dash. I did not know what they were for, but thought it must be an expensive car, and I guess it was at that time.

By Owen Hill

DO YOU REMEMBER LUTHER LEAGUE CONVENTIONS? T228

The big three day convention of the Luther League of Yankton circuit held for a number of years from the 1930's to 77.

These meetings began on Fridays and ended on Sunday evenings with morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. All three days and they were well attended. Many came from distances so the host church not only provided the noon meal at church but opened their homes for overnight, evening meal, and breakfast. Zion congregation entertained these conventions several times because their church was large and afforded the most seating. In 1936 I think they hosted one such convention and in order to accommodate the Sunday crowd they rented a large tent to use as an overflow in serving the meal. That year it was also decided to go to the Praben Engen pastures for Sunday afternoon where a large grove of trees gave excellent shade and lots of parking space. Mr. Engen says a count of 500 cars was three hundred and thirty five and estimated that twelve to fifteen hundred people attended.

A Rev. Martin Nostad who was a chaplin in prisons and institutions at that time was from Sioux City, Iowa. He also served as chaplin a number of years in the South Dakota prison at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. His address that time was “Three Days in a Death Cell” where he related his experience in the life of a man who was executed. The closing Sunday evening session featured a concert by a local chamber union which was directed by Miss Mabel Holtan (I think) and Miss Laura Simonson was pianist. Not quite all got into the church that evening as a few sat outside on the steps of the church. The Yankton Circuit Luther League took in a big territory, that went as far west as Charles Mix County, went out to the Mt. Vernon area, and down into Nebraska to Huntington. Delegates were elected from each church to attend the conventions and there was a good representation always from those of a distance.

Others who hosted the convention in this area was Vange at Minus Hill, Gayville, Irene, and Trondhjem churches.

by Anna L. Gustad

DO YOU REMEMBRE CLEANING CHURCH PEWS? T229

Members of Trondhjem began to look forward to the seventy-fifth anniversary in 1947 and a good hard look at the church and its furnishings. They saw dingy looking pews and also badly scratched so in September 1946 they, together with the ladies aid, set to work to correct the situation if possible.

by Ar
I REMEMBER HER LEAGUE VENTIONS? T228

...day convention of the Lutheran circuit held for a number of the 1900's to 19...ings began on Fridays and afternoons with morning, evening sessions. All three...ings were well attended. Many states to the host church not the noon meal at church but homes for overnight, evening meeting.

The convention entertained these...for the Praben Eken evening meal where a large...en, and Mr. Eken says a count of hundred and thirty five and...200 in Norstad who was a chaplain in the Army was a recruit. He also served as...er, South Dakota. The Army was "Three Days in a War" where he related his experience with his family. Sunday evening session featured a large (37) choral union directed by Miss Mabel Holten (1 and Laura Simenson was pianist.

I got into the church that...on the steps of the Yankton Circuit Luther...is Mix County, went out to the...are, and down into Nebraska.

The elected from each church to sente...and there was a good always from those of a dis...noted the convention in this...Mission Hill, Gayville, Albin churches.

by Anna L. Gustad

J REMEMBERING CHURCH PEWS? T229

Trondhjem began to look seventofiftieth anniversary in hard look at the church and they saw dingy looking pews scratched and worn. The members with the ladies aid, set to the situation if possible.


REFLECTIONS OF YESTER-YEAR SUPPERS AND SALES T229

Armed with gallons of varnish remover, heaps of rags, brushes and grim determination they set to work. What an aweful looking bunch they were all using patched and old clothing, knowing all too well the messy job that lay ahead. Pews were unscrewed from the floor and carried outside. The job progressed really well. Much sanding and several coats of finish made the old pews really beautiful revealing the beautiful grains of oak wood. After the pews were put in place another hard look around, and we saw we must do the same to the large decorative altar piece, the altar, pulpit, large decorative chairs, baptismal font, and other chancel furniture. So again with varnish remover etc. the second phase began, and again the results were so satisfying that the messy job was well worth all efforts put forth in restoring the natural oak furnishings.

In October when this had been completed they all gathered in the church parlor for a pleasant evening of ice cream, cake, and coffee.

The following year the church was painted inside and out for the observance of their seventy-fifth anniversary in August of that year.

by Anna L. Gustad

Making lefse for Ludafjord dinner at Trondhjem 1949 in their home; Dora Olsen rolling the lefse at table. Edel Olsen at the kitchen range.

The write-ups that will follow are a series of things that occurred years ago in the country community where the Trondhjem and Zion churches were and still functioning. Mostly it is more of what happened in the 1920's and probably will never recur as our rural population has dwindled down to less than one half of what it was in the 20's. Less people, less activities. We recall all the farmsteads that are no more and the people who dwelt there, most of them gone, either moved away, or death has taken its toll. Also at that time were the numerous rural schools with children filling the seating capacity and sometimes overcrowded. Now they have also disappeared from the scene.

The first I will write about is the sale of articles the women made and was sold. The proceeds were used for mission purposes and charities. As soon as the Ladies Aids were organized, this is what they did to raise some money. It seems taken for granted that it began with auctions, and this continued into the next century mark of their organizations.

However, as time progressed, they began to serve suppers. Chicken, beef and pork roasts, oyster stew and lefse, the latter for some reason seemed to have created more nostalgia than the others, and I hope it wasn't the color of the fish that we remember for it was not appealing to those who came into contact with it for the first time. Many who flopped out for this meal were not Scandinavians but had learned to like the fish which was served only in the fall and winter, but now with freezers one can serve this even in the heat of summer if so desired. At first the auctions were held after these different suppers but with the handling of the large crowds for the lefsefik, this was finally discontinued.

Now about the lefsefik supper both the ladies' groups each served a supper in the fall and there was a lot of work involved with the preparations as well as making and serving the meal. There always was a meat added to the menu for those who did not care for lefsefik.

In 1931 the North Prairie served a lefsefik supper, and the prices charged that year were children 10 cents and adults 25 cents. The usual menu was lefsefik with drawn butter, meat often meat balls and gravy, mashed potatoes, vegetables, pickles, lefse, flat bread, rolls, and a choice of pie with coffee. It was served family style, and they could eat all they wanted, and I don't think they ever ran out but may have had it close sometimes.

In 1947 the lefsefik had become so popular that tickets (500) were sold in advance, and
REFLECTIONS OF YESTER-YEAR

FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION

T231

It is possible that the first one could have been held in the Mrs. Helena Aune home in 1919. At that time Mrs. Aune and her neighbor Mrs. Ole Gustad were directors of the West Prairie Ladies Aid. A program and a sale of articles were held. We are told also that homemade ice cream was one of the delicacies sold. Later in 1919 at the Ramus Olson homestead a celebration was held with a "School Fest" (last day of summer Bible School) and the children presented the afternoon program.

These events were not held every year but when it began in the 1920's it was more frequent. By then they were bigger and better, and we children could hardly wait for the observance for we girls must always get a new dress that our mothers had labored over. Also maybe new shoes and hats. The boys, not concerned over clothes looked forward to firecrackers, fun, and food (goodies) at the refreshment stands. However, it was not only the young girls who were "pretzled up" but the automobiles also were thoroughly washed, shined, and decorated. Flags were fastened onto the radiator cap or head lights. Some also were red, white and blue streamers from head lamps to the top of the car, some even interwined into the spokes of the wheels.

After several years in the Olson farmstead the event was moved to the Mrs. Althea Lowe farm home and by now were sponsored by the Luther League and the two ladies aids. It was necessary that there be ample shade, space for parked cars, a baseball game, tug-of-war, and contests.

Much work went into preparing for this. Lumber loaned from local lumber yards was hauled out. A large refreshment stand, a platform for the program and lumber for seating. A large tent owned by the West Prairie Ladies Aid was brought out of storage and set up. Dishes had to be packed and hauled from the church also, cook ware, silverware, dish pans and pails, pans, kerosene stove, etc. Both a noon and evening meal were served from in front of the tent. From the refreshment stand ice cream (cone or dish), pop, candy bars, gum, and cigars were sold. Cones, candy, and gum were five cents, maybe even less. Cookies and ice cream dish were ten cents.

The ice cream used came in five gallon containers packed down in ice with a jacket of heavy thick canvas around the container as an insulation. This kept really well until the end of the day. Pop was cooled down in ice-water in tube, sometimes new steel stack water tanks were used.

Programs were presented from the stage made festive by flags, streamers of red and white and blue, and also a red, white and blue bunting edged the stage. Vocal, instrumental solos and choirs, instrumental solos or groups and a patriotic flag drill sometimes by the children, and there was always an address by a guest speaker.

Gas lanterns hung high provided the lights at night. Later years a show of fire works ended the evening performance and then there was a rush to the stand to partake of coffee, hamburger, cakes, and ice cream before going home.

Other sites where 4th of July was held were the Sam Simonson farm northeast of Irene, the Stem Brothers, Oliver Saastad and Olaf Aune homes. It was rather coincidental that the first and last celebration was on the Aune homesteaded, the first, at Mrs. Aune and then later her son Olaf.

One 4th of July, well remembered was in 1928 when a hot southern wind blew sand and dirt and sent temperatures soaring much over the hundred degree mark. Preparations had been made as usual but only a very few brave souls ventured out and they sought shelter in the tent in the trees. That year it was at Oliver Saastad’s. Ole G. Olson had gone to Yankton in his farm truck to haul out the ice cream. It became over-heated and caught fire on the road and was quickly extinguished. In the late afternoon the wind subsided, and temperatures dropped to a more comfortable level so that people came and partook of supper and attended the evening program. Well the celebration is over and now the clean up. Off da Daimling of stands, stage and seating, hauling the lumber back to the yards, all supplies back to the church, returning empty pop cases and ice cream containers to their respective places, rolling up and storing the tent, cleaning up the litter and earsbags, etc.

The spirit of co-operation, jolly good natured bantering while working together contributed to a season of good fellowship and the work was done without complaints. And this clos the era of 4th of July celebrations that will live in the memory of the women who made it and worked together.

The last one was also hosted by the L.D.R. together with the League and Ladies Aids.

by Anna L. Gustad

DO YOU REMEMBER GYPSY CARAVAN PEDDLEURS OR TRAMPS?

Then there was an occasion peddler on foot, going from a to b selling his wares from either a hand satchel. What a lone existence that must have bee had his places spotted for the n and evening meal and lodging a was at either the Althird and B- or Stem Brothers.

And then some poor fellow w through (walking), and he had He simply appeared at the doa meal. At night this usually w lodging. He was escorted to the barn he would go before the occupants of t to the barn to do chores.

Then the gypsy caravan came in a while, and it would be with a little behind our mother’s skirt for these strangers' arrivals. They were vivid colors, usually long dresses always a kerchief tied around themselves. They came to the door asking always a chicken to cook soup had been recently given birth to a baby persistent and didn’t leave something even if it was only into a bag. These things seem a bit new modern day of living.

by Anna L. Gustad

DO YOU REMEMBER M&M AND WATKINS?

When the M and M Show n appearance for a few years at store? This probably was around . The boy did several night when they came. The magic kits in a complete stage. A Marindahl store had caribbe Also do you remember the and team of horses come from yard? The friendly N completely enclosed in this w with a windshield in front and horse so they could sell spices, spices, flavor extract more. If he arrived at noon, asked to partake of the meal was offered supper and lont fast and his horses were given barn and fed. During the day school house at recess be all hundreds of gun and what it was when we each picked up...
DO YOU REMEMBER GYPSY CARAVANS, PEDDLERS AND TRAMPS?

There was an occasion visit from a peddler on foot, going from place to place selling his wares from either a back pack or a hand satchel. What a lonely and dreary existence that must have been. He usually had his places spotted for the noon day meals and evening meal and lodging and the lodging was at either the Aftins home or the Quigley house.

And then some poor fellow would also come through (walking), and he had nothing to sell. He simply appeared at the door and asked for a meal. At night this usually was a meal and lodging. He was escorted to the barn, and there in the hayloft he would sleep and be gone before the occupants of the place came to the barn to do chores.

Then the gypsy caravan came around once in a while, and it was with a little fear (usually behind our mother’s skirts) that we viewed these strangers’ arrivals. Their garb were of vivid colors, usually long flowing earrings and always a kerchief tied around their heads. They came to the door asking for something, anything, to have a meal, a place to sleep. These people were considered to have been born to a baby. They were persistent and didn’t leave either without something even if it was only crackers tossed into a bag.

These things seem a bit remote now in our modern day of living.

by Anna L. Gustad

EARLY BLACKSMITH SHOP IN YANKTON PRIOR TO 1910

The interior of the forge, the smithy, the shooting of a horse. (Tom C. Stewart is showing horse). The cooling barrel is in the forefront of the picture. The hobs will be seen resting in the stone fireplace. (Note: Electricity was used at this early time.)

by Eunice Stewart Siler

DO YOU REMEMBER M&M AND THE WATKINS MAN

When the M and M Show made its annual appearance for a few years at the Matildah store.

This probably was around 1915 and later. Their show did several night performances when they came. The magician acts held us kids in a complete state. At that time the Matildah store had electric lights.

Also do you remember the Watkins wagon and team of horses coming into your farm yard? The friendly Mr. Phillips set up and completely enclosed in this wagon of supplies with a windshied in front also a seat for the horses’ reins. In his wagon he had liniments, salves, spices, flavor extracts, and maybe more. If he arrived at noon, he was always asked to partake of the meal and at night he was offered supper and lodging; also breakfast and his horses were put in a stall in the barn and fed. During the day if he passed a school house at recess he always threw out handfuls of gum and what a scramble that was when each picked up some.

by Anna L. Gustad

The blacksmith shop was located just a few doors off Third and Douglas.

by Eunice Stewart Siler

"NO RUMMAGE SALES THEN"

Uncle John’s old Teddy Bear may have been a first-edition one. Since reading the recent Theodore Roosevelt commemoratives, one facet of which was the vivid descriptions of that toy which originated during his administration. I really do think that we played with an original Teddy. That prickly brown bear becoming so tired and worn in our very large family resulted in its destruction.

When Caroline and Anton Olson moved from their farmhouse in 1913, some things remained in the under-the-eaves areas of the east room there. (There were no rummage garage sales until many years later.) In the 1920’s as a young child, I remember seeing frames containing funeral wreaths being stored there, and there were other toys besides the Teddy Bear, toys which would be very valuable today. There were steel horses with vehicles, an engine, and other mechanical toys.

In the earliest homes, storage areas, if they existed, were quite different from contemporary ones. Some of the houses, still standing, have attics and other spaces, often treasure troves of memorabilia.

by Anna L. Gustad

Signs of Other Times "Thirsty"

When Cora Elsefson (Olson) was about three, she moved with her parents and her brother, Bern, to the former home which was located about two miles south of the Treadhjem Lutheran Church. They had lived on what is now the Gust Haven place since shortly before Cora was born there. She has told that while they were moving the seven miles, she rode in the buggy with Mother Marth and Aunty Hannah. It may have been a warm day and the ride may have made anyone thirsty. As a child would, Cora begged for a drink so they obliged her by stopping at a farmhouse.

How embarrassed the ladies were when the little girl, who became our mother, refused to drink! On the “road” again, they were told that she couldn’t drink from such a dirty dipper. In those days one did not drink from a fountain nor turn on a facet. A pull with a dipper was the usual welcome sight, a common dipper, no less. Ice boxes? Refrigerators? They may have had cellars or caves for keeping things cool, or they may have suspended pails in an open well so the contents would “keep”. (Cora’s father had..."

by Anna L. Gustad
"Dakota Territory Centennial Year of 1961" T259

I was a member of the "Yankton Saddle Club" even though I didn’t have a horse. I had many good times with the "Yankton Saddle Club."

One of the memories I’ve had was the parade at Irene, South Dakota, in July of 1961. I portrayed as a Prospector at this parade in 1961. My theme was "Prospecting wasn’t so good in 1961", as it was in the early years of South Dakota.

I led through the 1961 parade in Irene, South Dakota, a donkey owned by Emery Simonson. I led the donkey back to the first part of the parade route. I had a water jug on the donkey and an old guitar hung on my back; I wore a very torn and tattered pair of a shabby hat worn out shoes, a growth of whiskers for the Dal Centennial of 1961. At night in Irene after par was square dancing put on by "Saddle Club" on the main at South Dakota.

"A special thanks to all of the people celebrate the Centennial year "Million Johnson of Gayville, who influenced me in activities of the 1961 Centennial 1961 old name Pamela Van Rigos” Dr Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Van I such a loyal helper to me at the to Rocketa Pageant, and to En letting me lead his donkey parade at Irene, in the Cent 1961. "Million, Emery and Pam" You 3 people have left a Fond Memories”

Sincerely, Owen Hill

Written in the year of 1986

by Melinda Olson Peterson

"SAFE DURING A BLIZZARD" T236

"Twas in 1937 when thirteen of the pupils attending Malvern School in Wyoming County, South Dakota spent the night in the one-room schoolhouse. The teacher, Miss Pauline Jorgensen (Keppaard), was very patient, loving, and kind. At approximately 10 o’clock, snow began to fall, and by dismissal time there was a blizzard. Some parents had come early for their children while others had not. Really, it wasn’t a bad experience when we knew that we’d sleep at school that night. Hector Gustad, who lived one-fourth mile east of the school at what was called the Ellesus Elleson Place, followed the fence to bring food and blankets for us. (Our parents did not know that we had food. During the Depression practically all telephones in the community were not in service. Rural schools did not have telephones at that time in that area.) The planks stored in the basement and used to make a stage for the shop program were our beds. We kept warm (for there was adequate fuel for the furnace in the basement) while Miss Jorgensen read Just Jimmy by the light of the kerosene lamps. Geraldine Herre and Nelda, one of my sisters there, were in first grade and I remember the teacher holding them on her lap. (Claes and Rosella were there, too. In a rural setting older children somehow looked after the younger ones since grades one through eight studied in one schoolroom with one teacher and they had recess together.)

We retired at 10:30 PM, and the next morning parents came for us in sleighs and wagons with clean straw on the floor and plenty of blankets and quilts to help keep us warm. They had been concerned that we’d be hungry, but they were confident that our excellent teacher had kept us at school. Since Dad was on the school board, our parents had knowledge that there was plenty of coal/wood for fuel.

It seems that although Miss Jorgensen must have been very tired, there was school the next day. Those of us who had slept during the night were excused for the day so we told those at home the whole story.

by LeVila Olson Johnson

"ICE AND ICE CREAM" T237

The last years we lived at the homestead the old ice house was used for storing corn cobs which were used for fuel. Before that, putting ice in the winter was a chore, to say nothing about Dad’s having to cut it to fit the ice box in the house even during noon in the busiest summer season. It would be filled every other day, and I remember emptying the pan beneath the ice box. Besides keeping food cold, this ice was used for making ice cream. (It wasn’t sanitary to cool drinks with it for it came from the creek.) Ice cream was very special then for a Sunday or any summer night and it was a must for the Fourth of July. Using a hand-cranked wooden freezer, these ingredients Mother always used: 4 c. milk, 4 eggs, beet sugar, 1/2 cup, gradually add 1/2 cup of sugar and mix well. Add 1/2 teaspoon salt, 6 cups milk, 4 cups cream and 2 tablespoon sugar. One day when I was very young, we invited Great-Gramma Ingeborg for ice cream, and I played tag ball with her. It was very special to have company for ice cream.

A crew of men using ice saws for cutting the ice when it was twelve to eighteen inches thick, cut the ice into blocks. These were pulled from the water and hauled home with horses pulling the wagons. Then the blocks were packed in sawdust and straw in the ice house which was made of concrete and dug into the ground. (Between this stage of “keeping food” and the refrigerator was the ice delivery in rural areas.)

"Doughnuts"

I recall making dozens and dozens of doughnuts all through the years. When gravel was hauled from the pit on the homestead, the men with teams and wagons drove through the yard. Mother sold doughnuts and coffee for five cents. This is the recipe she used: 1 c. flour, 1/2 c. sugar, 1/2 tsp. salt, 1 egg, 1/2 cup good buttermilk and 1 teaspoon soda; vanilla; flour enough to roll. Fry both sides in lard.

by Nelda Olson Hultgren

"HOW DID THEY MANAGE?" T238

Recently when a family with five young children visited our home, the young mother wondered how her parents with many more children managed. Our family may have been unique in being "three a three". The three oldest daughters took much responsibility for the next three girls, in order of age. When the boys came along, #4, #5, and #6 each helped with one of them.

There wasn’t much taxing when we grew up in the twenties and thirties. Activities were mainly family-oriented. There was the church and there was the school besides the close neighbors and relatives, mainly. There weren’t many enrichment activities such as those which take people from home today. Then families sat down to eat together for most meals and to converse at the table. The members of the family communicated while they worked in the house and out-of-doors. The lack of conveniences kept all members of the family at tasks; many of which are obsolete today. Then, too, most mothers did not work outside the home.

In contrast to the present, there seemed to be more appreciation for the little things. Perhaps there was less emphasis on material things so that parents could feel good about themselves when they provided what seemed to be necessities.

Children learned about nature while walking to school, and they built strong bodies while they practiced the art of observation. Now they need more classes in learning to keep fit for they do not have the same opportunities. It may not be safe out there today and, too, people are hurried so there isn’t time to walk, to smell the roses and to hear the birdie.

by Melinda Olson Peterson

“wished” water for the well at that new home. It is in use today.)

"Be Careful With the Butter"

There were hogs but little fat; there were chickens but few eggs. There were cows that gave some milk for drinking, for making cheese and for separating so that cream might be sold for grocery money or churned into butter. Mother would spread the bread for the table or she would place some on a saucer as she might say, "Be careful with the butter. That’s all there is."

One day in the 1930’s, the youngest of the six daughters brought out a plate heaped with butter. As she climbed to sit on the table, she admonished, "Be careful with the butter. That’s all we got."

"Payment in Kind"

Fifty years ago much corn was cut to be shocked or used for silage rather than being hauled. Everyone did not own a corn binder so Dad did custom work. How disappointed he was when a man of means paid, not in money but with a beautiful handcrafted knife! Those people must not have realized, as many childless couples would, how much he needed the money to feed the family.

by Melinda Olson Peterson
A TERRITORY ANNIAL YEAR
OF 1961

by Owen Hill

Owen Hill leading Emery Simonson’s donkey in the Dakota Territory parade.

Owen Hill was the “Prospector” in the Dakota Territory parade in Irene, South Dakota. Taken in July of 1961.

very torn and tattered pair of overalls, plus a shabby hat worn out shorn, and had a good growth of whiskers for the Dakota Territory Centennial event of 1961.

At night in Irene after parade etc., there was square dancing put on by the “Yankton Saddle Club” on the main street of Irene, South Dakota.

“A special thanks to all of those who helped me celebrate the Centennial year in 1961,” to

“Milton Johnson of Gayville, South Dakota who influenced me to get into the various activities of the 1961 Centennial, and to “11 year old Pamela Van Eppe” the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Van Eppe who was such a loyal helper to me at the Yankton Rifle to Rockets Pageant, and to Emery Simonson letting me lead his donkey through the parade at Irene, in the Centennial year of 1961.

“Milton, Emery and Pam”

“You 3 people have left me with many

“Fond Memories”

Sincerely, Owen Hill

Written in the year of 1966

RIFLES TO ROCKETS


“Rifles to Rockets” was a 2 hour program portraying the early life in Dakota on up to the year 1961. The pageant was held at the football field at Yankton College for six nights and used local people in the various scenes in the two hour program.

The pictures shown is one of the costumes I wore representing an early day trapper as one of the first settlers in the town of Yankton. The other costume I wore was worn underneath the trapper costume, and this costume was a costume representing the Gay Nineties or tin type era of 1890 clothes worn then.

Being part of the cast in “Rifles to Rockets” left me with one of the fondest memories of my life.

My “thanks” goes to Milton Johnson, one of our County Commissioners at that time, he talked me into joining the pageant. He usually paid the people in the area a yearly visit, and he came to our place and told me to come on and join the pageant, which I did and never regretted the experience of participating in the pageant. My other “Big Thanks” goes to Pamela Van Eppe an eleven year old girl, when the pageant was being presented the week of June 19 to the 24th of 1961. Pam was always back of the scene, and she would watch after my trappers costume until I got back from wearing the costume of the Gay Nineties from the scene of the Tin
FAITH OF OUR FATHERS

T241

On July 10, 1859 Dakota Territory was legally open for settlers by ratification of the treaty with the Sioux. Before the vanishing Indians had gotten out of sight, the streams of expectant immigrants waiting on the board of Iowas and Nebraska poured over the land like a flood. As there were no schools or churches, after a period of time the settlers began to feel the need of fellowship about God's word. So it came about that whenever a circuit riding preacher came through they would gather at one of the homes and have an all day fellowship. These meetings were interdenominational, and still are. So it came about through these gatherings that the South Dakota Inner-Mission Society was born. The following has been translated from the book (Mordravbyv); this book is written in Norwegian and published in 1918. Mrs. Martin Johnson of Irene has translated this, and I wish to thank her for the marvelous job she has done. She just had her 89th birthday February 3, 1890.

The South Dakota Inner-Mission Society was organized at a meeting in Yankton, South Dakota, December 28, 1886 (and still meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month, in 1986). Mr. H. Hagen spokeperson, Andrew Sayeke, I.H. Gunderson, and one more present. In 1887 a special meeting was held in James Congrega-
tion South of Menno, South Dakota. There it was decided to labor with the Word of God thereby spreading the armor of mercy and support the local churches in addition to the regular preaching. Fifty people joined the society. A committee was elected to organize some rules. The next meeting was held with the Trondhjem Congregation, 1888, where the regulations were accepted. Nine men were elected to take charge. I.H. Gundersen, chairman, I.O. Skovtold, secretary; and M.J. Schiltz, treasurer. Gundersen remained chairman until 1896 when his business took more and more of his time. Others on the board were H. Hagen, Olel Skanne, P.H. Teitle, I.S. Fagerbaus, and Schiltz.

In 1896 the annual meeting was held in Centerville, South Dakota. J.J. Oakland, chairman, held office until 1912 when he became sickly. J.P. Langbak was then chairman until 1932, became sickly and died four months later, 84 years old. In 1897 yearly meeting was held in the Trondhjem Congregation, Rev. T.L. Carlson's parish. S. Scheibe, vice-chairman; I.O. Skovtold, secretary; and J. Martvedt, treasurer.

1898 - Annual meeting in the Franks Congregation, Charlie Min, South. Neketh parish. No mention made of the officers.

1899 - Annual meeting in Meldal Congrega-
tion, Skovtold, vice chairman; Vadheim, secretary; I.S. Fagerbaus treasurer.

1900 - Annual meeting in St. John's Londoia Parish. The same officers with the exception of J.C. Grosseth, vice chairman.

1901 - Pastor Norbeck elected on the board, J.J. Rislov, secretary; S. Hinseth, treasurer. Four men were elected to travel around and speak the word of God.

1903 - Board re-elected; several names are being entered on the books at the meeting in Howard congregation, Rev. Hvostow's parish; Rev. Asberg,Jon Rye, Oakland, Steen, Ole Sorensen, pastor; Pedter Pedersen, church clerk, N. Drageaas, N. Oakland, S. Missenesh, E. Norby, Ole Verla, Olson, Professor Joel and Rislov.

1905 - Annual meeting at Centerville. One new man elected on the board; E. Vadheim, chairman; N.J. Nelsen, vice chair-
man, Oakland, secretary; Hinseth, treasurer; J. Bruse to travel around for three months, $25.00 per month and travel expenses. Every-
one on the board; Rjeka, M. Gromada, J.C. Grosseth, Rislov, S. More.

1906 - No mention of board meeting to be held in April, 1907 then not any mention is made of annual meetings until 1910. Eden congregation Rev. Svalstuen's parish. To the board following were elected - Rev. Nummedal and Ole Verlo. It was decided to buy 100 copies of "Look unto Jesus", and have printed 25 copies of "Truth unto Godliness" $100.00 was given on Oakland for travel expenses.

1911 - Same board on May. Martin Monson, Badger, Iowa, was elected mission-
ary for one or two months, others also. 14 meetings were held this year.

1912 - same board annual meeting in Lake Madison, Sixteen meetings were held throughout the year.

1913 - Annual meeting and 25th Year Jubilee held in Trondhjem Congress, northern part of Volin. It was a three day celebration held the 25-37 of May. Officers reelected, Langbak chairman, and he relates about the 25 years anniversary observed. Pastor Nummedal gave the festival sermon - Pastor Thompson and his choir were there with songs.


1915 - Annual meeting at Trondhjem Church, Northeast of Beresford, South Dakota Rev. J.A. Quell's - Parish. Opening sermon by N. Nilson, Elk Point, South Dakota.

1916 - Annual meeting in Meldal Congregation, Rev. Nervig parish. Pastor Breun opened the meeting with scripture, Luke 12: 48-53. The secretary is paid $10.00 per year, and the chairman receives $5.00. On the board; Langbak; chairman; Nilson vice-chairman, secretary, L. Hinseth; treasurer; L.F. John- son. Amount in the treasury, $452.13. ten meetings had been held that year.

1917 - Annual meeting in the Bethel congregation, Rev. Brodland's parish. Rev. P. Hansen opened the meeting reading from Acts 6, Thoro Fonson lead in devotions. Same officers elected.

1918 - Annual meeting held in Trondhjem Congregation Rev. S.J. Nummedal parish, Thone; Matthew 18: 17-27 introduced by Rev. S.S. Olson; Rev. Nummedal was elected on the board, he did not accept. T.S. Braa was elected and officers were; chairman, Lang-
bak; vice chairman, Vadheim; secretary Rev. P.O. Hansen; S. Hinseth, treasurer.

1920 - Annual meeting held at Zion church, west of Volin. Rev. L.O. Sundnes parish. Opening sermon by A. Hammerson, Thone; Acts 3:27-47 given by Prof. Sven Strand. On the board, Rev. C.K. Solberg, S. Swensen, and Langbak who was reelected as chairman, also A. Hammerson, vice-chairman; J.F. John- son, secretary; S. Swensen, treasurer, 13 members elected.

1921 - Annual meeting held at Zion church, Yankton Church, Rev. Brodland's parish, Members of board re-elected.

1922 - No mention made of annual meeting.

1923 - Annual meeting held in Lake Madison Church Rev. Sartsgberg's parish, Opening sermon by Rev. S.S. Olson, and Rev. Mannes spoke on Revelations 5:21-22. Cho-
ners were elected; Markers Ols, Ole, Marker, Markers Olson, and Ole Nordeteen, secretary. 1924 - Annual meeting at Lands Church, Rev. Dale's parish. Secretary Nordeteen announces that J.P. Langbak's name is on the list, but became a member many years ago, etc. in Irene, August 1924.

1925 - Annual meeting at Centerville. Pastor Gissequist's parish. To the board the following were elected A.J. Moe, Hans Hans- son, and E. Sletten, secretary, and 19. Annual meeting was held in Northfield, Minnesota, and Nordeteen and Pedter Gill were chosen as delegates.

1927 - Annual meeting held in Lands church, Rev. Daleslo parish. The opening sermon was given by Rev. P.P. Hagen and Rev. O. Futland spoke on Revelation 3:14-22. On the board; Langbak, chairman; vice-
chairman A. Hannerud; Treasurer; Vadheim; he would not accept, and Hans Hansen was elected in his place, secretary, Nordeteen.

1927 - Annual meeting held at Lands church. Rev. Dale'slo parish. Report lost. It shows there were 19 members present. Secretary Nordeteen left South Dakota and Christopher making report.

1928 - Annual meeting held at Trondhjem church, Rev. Eastvold's parish. The Lord had called 50 years ago, 40 of our from this people, we moved to Trondhjem church, Rev. Dale'slo parish. Report lost. It shows there were 19 members present. Secretary Nordeteen left South Dakota and Christopher making report.

WELK RECA YANKTON, 'H TOTSY BOYS'

Lawrence Welk, the chain maker, remembers well his place on a half-acre cow more than a half-cent ridge, a bit of the old prairie. The young Welk, anxious family, enjoyed his music and he never crossed his mind I wouldn't like it.

Welk was born and raised a south-central North Dakota he made his living from the land ever he could. There were many homes
education secretary. Eleven during the day.

1. a meeting at Tombend Church, sireden, south Dakota, Rev.

2. arath. Opening sermon by N.

3. int, south Dakota. al meeting at Meall Church, rich. Pastor Brenn opened the


5. tid $100 per year, and the

6. oes $3.00. On the board;

7. rman; nkon vice-chairman, linseh; treasurer, L.F. John-

8. n the treasury, $42.93, ten

9. sen held that day.

10. al meeting in the Benton

11. Rev. Brodland's parish. Rev. Age the meeting reading from

12. son lead in devotions. Same

13. ual meeting held in Trinity


15. v. Numedal was elected on

16. lid not acceptable. T.S. Braa

17. s were: chairman, Long-

18. nam, Vatheim; secretary Rev.

19. hinseth, treasurer.

20. al meeting held at Zion church,


22. by a. Hammersand, Thome;

23. ven by Prof. Sven Strand.

24. n C.K. Solberg, S. Wenshaun, and

25. re-elected as chairman, also

26. ed, vice-chairman; J.F. John-

27. n S. Solberg, treasurer, 13

28. ual meeting held at Zion

29. ton County. Rev. Brodland's

30. of board re-elected.

31. ention made of annual meet-

32. ns held during the year.

33. ual meeting held in Lake

34. nd, chairman; Gudmund Nelson,

35. vice-chairman; and O.L. Stine,

36. r. Others on the board - J.S. Braa, T.K.

37. ge, Olk N. Thorndomgard, J.B.

38. jaer, and Rev. F.M. Fjaere.

39. he 50th Anniversary was called the

40. year of Jubilee and was a two day celebration

41. held at the Hvedem Church.

42. by Constance Fagerhau

WELK RECALLS YANKTON, HOTY TOTSY BOYS' ERA

Lawrence Welk, the champagne music-

maker, remembers well his first critic. He
did not stop his infant accordion playing
come more than a half-century ago, while
riding a bumpy train across the Dakota prairies.
The young Welk, anxious to get off the

family farm, enjoyed his music. Apparently,
it never crossed his mind somebody else

wouldn't like it.

Welk was born and raised near Strasburg,

south-central North Dakota hamlet, and he'd

slip away for solo performances when-

ever he could.

There were many homespun musicians

fostered by those prairie towns and farms.

But Welk judging by what was to follow had

the greater urge for acclaim.

He knew and he sensed that with his music

he was doing something right. He was

pleasing people and they were responding to

him.

From those hundreds of one-man-stands at

neighborhood parties and weddings, Welk

formed a band and moved on to thousands of

one-nighters around the country, flashing

his friendly smile as the Depression-era
dancers glided to his waltzes, schottisches,

polka and fox toes - music "I learned at

home."

His major break stemmed from live radio

performances on WNAX in Yankton, South

Dakota. Those WNAX years "shaped my

career," says Welk. "We played there in the
daytime, and at nighttime they allowed us to

play dances," spreading the name of "Welk

and his Hotsy-Totsy Boys."

"We didn't get paid very much," he says.

"But we learned fast. We played for so

much money, perhaps $5 apiece. So we

changed to get a percent of the gate."

There followed the 1930's and '40's and the

Edgewater Beach Hotel, the Aragon and

Triumon Ballrooms, a nationally broadcast

radio program, a 25-year nationally televised

show. Now it's a plush headquarters in the

Wilshire Paladians Building, an 11-story

office building in Santa Monica's Lawrence

Welk Plaza, from where the former farm boy

oversees his enterprises.

"I'm semi-retired," says Welk, now that

he's taken his weekly television show out of

production. However, he's selected the best

of his programs, has recorded new introduc-

tions, and they are being rerun around the
country.

He and his 30-piece orchestra play week-

long or 10-day engagements "a couple of
times a year. I have some business here,

I come into the office about every day."

But before all that, Welk had to get off the
farm. He was delayed until he was 21 by poor
health. ("They said I had a ruptured appendix") and

his promise to first pay back his father for a

$400 accordion.

Often, at local wedding dances, "I didn't
get paid", or "They ask you to play when you

come home from church. The pay was maybe

10 cents. If there was a rich man around he'd

maybe give you a quarter."

In 1936 he went to nearby Selby to play for
dances at a three-day fair. Also in Selby was

George T. Kelly and is Peerless Entertainers

from Popular, Montana. Kelly hired Welk and

billed him as "The World's Greatest

Accordionist."

"I stayed with him several years," says

Welk. "And that's where I learned show

business." Welk remembers Kelly telling him the

secret to the business, "you must please

the people." That was his strong point, and it

kind of rubbed off on me."

"If it hadn't been for Kelly, I might not

have ever done show business. Basically, I'm

a farmer."

And Welk met that first critic when he was

still struggling to get off the farm, which he

subsequently left for good in 1924. He was

taking the train to a solo dance engagement

in St. Mary's Hall in Aberdeen. "Ket

playing my accordion," Welk recalls. "Finally,

it got on somebody's nerves. A passenger

asked me if I played cards, I said no, I played

the accordion." He said, "I know you do, and I can't take it any longer."

Laughing now, Welk says, "That's my first

big mistake I made, that not all people liked

my music."

by Press & Dakotan (Focus)
PICTORIAL SECTION

Morrow's photographic studio in Yankton, 1889, on the corner of Third Street.

Yankton Street Scene, looking west in right foreground. C. 1900's.
YANKTON
PICTORIAL SECTION
T-243

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Certificate of Citizenship

State of NEBRASKA

County of Sheridan

In the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty... The said Court having been Fusion to the jurisdiction, and a Clerk and Clerk, one accused in the said Court to be admitted to become a Citizen of the United States of America pursuant to the provisions of the naturalization act of the United States of America, was duly made and performed, and the said petition having therefore proceeded in the said Court, such naturalization

Thenceupon, It was ordered by the said Court, that the said applicant be admitted to the rights and privileges of a Citizen of the United States of America.

In Testimony Whereof, the Seal of said Court is hereto affixed.

Yankton, Sept. 23rd, 1880

Charles Sheldon and Louis DeWitt schoolmates of 1870.

Certificate of Citizenship

Yankton Street Scene, looking west on Third Street from corner of 3rd and Douglas. Dean Gross Hardware in right foreground. C. 1900's.
TO-NIGHT

VAUDEVILLE

Day & Janousek

“A NOVELTY MUSICAL ACT”

Given in Addition to a Feature Picture Program

AT

Platt

DATE

OCT 17 / 13

HEAR MISS DAY MAKE HER

$800. VIOLIN TALK.

Miss Janousek

ON THE PIANO IS

A WONDER

NOT CLASSICAL – NOT RAG TIME

BUT PRESENTING MUSIC THAT’S DIFFERENT

Registering at Yankton for Rosebud lands, July 18, 1904. The line is from 3rd to 4th and down Capitol to Pierce Hotel at 8 A.M.

The line from Broadway down Third at 5 A.M. on July 18, 1904.

Mr. Bartlett Tripp, Attorney in Yankton and at one time an ambassador to Austria.
Sailor suits for little boys were for many decades regular "dress-up" attire for little boys. Not always, though, were they so predictive as in this case. (Four generations of the Hand family, taken in the early '90s, L-R: Geo. H. Hand, "Sandy" Sharp, Jessie (Hand) Sharp, Mother Hand.) About the one in the sailor suit, on October 9, 1941, news item read: "Rear Admiral Alexander Sharp, director of Naval Districts, declared today that the Navy planned to purchase 59 privately owned yachts, 25 of them immediately, at cost of $10,000,000 as part of a program to construct or purchase 400 mist steel craft to relieve destroyers on training patrol duty.

Patrick M. "Putzy" Magner, well-known Yankton businessman, born in 1889, as a professional boxer, appeared in about 30 featherweight class matches, losing only one. His success stimulated interest in this and other kinds of athletic contests in the area.

Third and Walnut Street. C. 1810.

**Menu**

**Opening Banquet and Reception**

The Portland

C. E. Buck, Pres.

Opening Banquet and Reception for the Portland.

9. Attorney in Yankton and at ambassador to Austria.
Second Street looking east between Linn and Broadway.

Employees of the W.S. Stockwell, Cigar Factory.

Meridian Highway Bridge, showing span raised to allow boat to pass under.

Mrs. Pound.

Capt. Joseph Mills Hanson.

Dramatic arts have fascinated local e Dramatic Club in 1901. Performers e Carl Willis, E.M. Valentine.

Standing L-R: D. A. Keenebury, Will Kasson, Mrs. Kasson and Mrs. Arz

A scene on the James River.
Dramatic arts have fascinated local audiences, also. Here a scene from "Uncle" is enacted by the Yankton Dramatic Club in 1903. Performers were J.W.F. Davis, Alice Daugherty, Ross Hoffinan, Mrs. H. Eller, Carl Willis, E.M. Valentine.

Odd Fellows Hall. Old Yankton County Court House on corner of 5th and Douglas. C. 1907.

Standing L-R: R.A. Ketchum, Will Kassen, Frank Kassen. Seated L-R: Mrs. Morrow, Mrs. Hend, Mother Kassen, Mrs. Kassen and Mrs. Ackley - 1871.

Standing L-R: Cora Foster and George Miner. Sitting Clockwise L-R: Jerry Fick, Frank Van Tassel, Carrie Foster and Allie Shepherd.

Fountain Roller Mill, Minner and Walker owners, C. 1887.

A scene on the James River.

Mills Hanson.

William Neils Collamer, Yankton's first Mayor – 1887.

Yaggie Mills Blaze, on September 29, 1947.

A street scene. Northeast corner Walnut to Cedar and 2nd street north side about 1900.
Christmas at the Portland 1908.

Yankton College.

Yankton Collage, All State Champions of South Dakota.

Dr. Van Wilson, married Fannie Todd daughter of General Todd.

A Livery Business place in Yankton on 318 Douglas. C. 1904.


Farm home near Yankton, C. 1890's.

Representing many kinds of sporting College team back in the days of "rc".

Germania House, 1915.
con, married Fannie Todd daughter of d.

Henry Tripp, Lee Morrow, Hod Fr. Murphy, and Jack Pennington.
J. Bert Heie, Tom Edwards, Ralph wie Sharp. Bottom row L-R. Add ps Kingbisky, Frank Ziebach, and

The Ash Hotel, Yankton Dakota Territory. 1896.

Representing many kinds of sporting events found in the Yankton area in this picture of the 1903 Yankton College team back in the days of “rugged” football and skimpy padding.

Germania House, 1915.
L-R: Will Bruce, Anna Alney, Burney Wooley, and Alice Poolton taken on College Hill, Yankton College.

Dr. James Roome, 1884.

Dr. Roome's home at Broadway and Levee Street.

Dan McDvitt Store. C. 1910.

Musical Program

1. "Dan Monroe"—March
2. "Heavy Boy"—Selection
3. "Daughter of Love"—Waltz
4. "Governor's Reel"—Overture
5. "The Glee"—March
6. "Clementine"—Selection
7. "Starry Night"—Waltz
8. "Rock Chalk"—Selections
9. "Waiting for the Whistle"—Waltz
10. "March"—Selected

Program
Poston Bridge on Missouri River, Yankton, South Dakota.

Goetz Carpenter Shop on the corner of 4th and Linn. Mr. Valentine, contractor, Mr. Goetz, carpenter and Mr. Branner, painter.

MUSICAL PROGRAM

Pr. The Morning—March

Hornet’s—Selection

Sweetheart of Love—Waltz

Governor’s Inn—Overture

The Club—March

Carnival—Selected

Song of the Flowers

Bread Crust—Selection

Walking in the Woods—Waltz

March—Selected

Program Subject to Change

Reception Committee

Mr. and Mrs. C. K. Beck
Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Tyler
Mr. and Mrs. F. L. VanVleet
Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Collins
Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Lock
Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Sanborn
Mr. and Mrs. Dave Fremen
Mr. and Mrs. B. V. Herckley
Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Zaff
Mr. and Mrs. E. L. McDowell
Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Stull
Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Stull
Mrs. Alice Doering
Mr. H. F. Furrey
Mr. Frank G. Sartle
Mr. William F. Peterson
Rev. Fathers Lawrence, Laska
Mr. Maurice M. Zelleck, Chairman

Program
BUSINESS STORIES

Showing street repair work 3rd St. (Fantele corner) looking east April 29, 1915
The American State Bank of Yankton was chartered on September 9, 1891. Applying for the charter were M.P. Ohlman, Sr., Harry W. Wynn and associates, many of whom were Yankton businesses. Ohlman was named President of the bank and held that position until his death in 1928. Wynn was named cashier, and upon his death in 1905, he was succeeded by his son, Chester A. Wynn, who was active in the bank for several years.

In February 1911, Harold E. Edmunds and James M. Lloyd purchased the Wynn interest and became associated with Ohlman in the bank. They later acquired the interests of other small stockholders.

Lloyd had ten years of previous banking experience with the First National Bank which he entered in 1901 as a clerk. Later, he served as cashier of the First Loan and Trust Company, which was established in 1909 and was an affiliate of the First National Bank. Edmunds had been associated since 1906 with his father, Charles P. Edmunds, and an uncle, William H. Edmunds, in the operation of the Yankton National Bank, originally established by Newton Edmunds, who was appointed the second governor of the Dakota Territory by President Lincoln.

Edmunds also was an assistant cashier of the First National Bank until the early part of 1909, when he moved to Watertown to represent the Edmunds family, which had a substantial financial interest in the Watertown Power and Light Company for Ferris Brothers. He returned to Yankton late in 1910.

When Lloyd and Edmunds joined the American State Bank staff in 1911, Lloyd succeeded J.W. Ohlman as vice president and Edmunds succeeded C.A. Wynn as cashier. On the death of M.P. Ohlman, Sr., in 1928, J.W. Ohlman was elected President of the bank. He died in 1929, at which time M.P. Ohlman Jr. was elected President. He resigned office July 10, 1936 and at that time, Edmunds was elected Chairman of the Board and Lloyd was elected President.

At the annual meeting in January, 1964, Edmunds and Lloyd announced they had sold a substantial interest in the bank to S. Dean Evans Sr. of Salina, Kansas. Evans had banking interests in Nebraska and Kansas, as well as interests in livestock, ranching, grain and feed merchandising operations in the Midwest.

Edmunds was re-elected Chairman of the Board and Lloyd re-elected as President. James I. Deam was named Vice President, having come to Yankton from Wyola, Montana in September of 1963. Deam was the third generation in his family in the banking field, having some thirty years of experience in the bank ownership and management fields. His wide experience in all phases of banking made Deam well suited for his roll in the expansion program of American State Bank. He had previously been associated with his father in the active ownership of banks in Iowa prior to the time he entered the Air Corps as a pilot in World War II. Following his discharge, he purchased and operated banks in Nebraska, South Dakota and Montana. He was re-elected for the Bank for the State of Montana. In September of 1964, James I. Deam was elected as Executive Vice President and the following year, in September of 1965, he was elected President of American State Bank. He continued to serve the bank in his role as President until September of 1984, at which time, he was elected Chairman of the Board. Mr. William A. Deam, son of James I. Deam, was elected President of American State Bank as early as 1960, where he commenced his training in the bookkeeping department of the bank. Following his formal education, wherein he also completed requirements for his law degree, he served the United States Army in the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

The bank has been in continuous operation since 1891, when the bank and in 1974 was named Vice President and Trust Officer. In 1978, he was promoted to Senior Vice President and Trust Officer and was subsequently named Executive Vice President, a position he held until his election as President of American State Bank in September of 1984.

A steady increase in deposits has been enjoyed by the American State Bank from the time of its original charter until the present time. From assets of $50,000.00 in 1901, they have expanded to over $80 million as of December 31, 1984. This reflects the changing times including depressions, inflation in the economy, etc., as well as the growth of the Yankton area and the American State Bank.

The American State Bank maintained an enviable record during the difficult depression years of the early 1930's. A deflation of $800,000 in deposits in a little over two years was met with a like drop in loans, which proved sufficiently liquid to enable the bank to avoid borrowing, or rediscounting or selling securities at prices which would have entailed a loss, in order to maintain required reserves. After the bank "holdup" in March 1933 - when American State Bank deposits had declined to $810,000 and loans reduced to $830,000, the steady rise started to achieve the present reserves which are in excess of $80 million today.

One of the interesting items in the history of the bank was a daylight holdup on July 10, 1931, when the loot was in excess of $17,000, including a sack containing $5,000 in gold. The group of five armed bandits entered the bank and demanded cash, and in the course of the robbery, J.M. Lloyd was struck over the head by the leader of the gang. The bank was fully protected with insurance on the loss. The Burris Detective Agency had a line on the gang and tried and convicted for other crimes recovery was made on the American Bank holdup.

Pictured is the American State Bank appeared in 1920 at 109 W. 2nd St. Photograph includes the building side of the bank. The bank was established in what was known as Block at the corner of Third Avenue and the Yankton block store n. The bank remained in that location until February 17, 1964, when they moved present location at 225 Cedar Street better serve the public and meet demands, the present location has been expanded on several occasions whereby the main structure has virtually tripled. Now include separate facilities for Trust Department, Audit Department, Executive and Board Room. In addition, a modern four lane drive through has been added to serve the Yankton Mall, as well as data entry services at the mall, and have Vermillion, South Dakota, which constructed in 1990 by American State Bank.
AVIATION AND THE YANKTON AIRPORT

Yankton County's aviation history may have started when Floyd Barlow assembled and flew an airplane from the Yankton College athletic field, in 1911.1 In the teens and 1920's barnstorming pilots flew and gave rides from several pastures and hay fields surrounding Yankton. A field just east of the Yankton Cemetery was used several times. The first airplane I saw at close range was on this field. This was during the Meridian Bridge celebration in October of 1924. This celebration marked the opening of the fourth span between Nebraska and South Dakota at Yankton. One of Yankton County's airport's note was Swen Swanson. He grew up at the Midway store. In the early 1920's he attended the University of South Dakota in Yankton. During this time he and Ed Freeman built an airplane. Ed Freeman later founded the Freeman Co. of Yankton.

Swen Swanson learned to fly this airplane by himself, getting most of his information from books. He later became an aircraft designer. He designed the Karl-Keen Coupe that was manufactured at Sioux City, Iowa. This was the same company that made many Karl-Keen trucks for automobiles.

He later located at Honolulu, Virgina. There he left his father the foundation of the Swanson Airplane Co. The model of aircraft they manufactured was the Swanson Coupe, an aircraft similar in design to the Karl-Keen Coupe, in that it had a full cantilever high wing. Swen's brilliant aircraft designing career was cut short when, in 1935, he died, after being stricken with double pneumonia. He was only 34 years old.

Another Yankton County native and pioneeer aviator is Albert Schramm. He grew up on the Schramm farm, known as the Pleasant Valley Farms near south of the Jine River on Highway 81. He learned to fly in the late 1920's. In the mid 1930's he was hired to serve as a test pilot by the American Aircraft Co. of Detroit, Michigan. He was associated with this company for many years, later becoming their chief test pilot and also was involved in the design of the later Stinsons. The Stinson Aircraft Co. was liquidated in late 1948. Schramm was later employed as a salesman for Stearman type aircraft.

In December 1937, a Stinson 108 airplane came to Yankton in 1928. It operated Yankton Municipal Airport. This airport was located in the southwestern corner of Section 36, Twp. 54N. Range 6W, just west of the Highway 81 and US 18 intersection. The pilot was Clarence Hubler, a pioneer aviator Clyde J. Cook brought his Ford Tri-Motor named the Wambles-Chanka to this field, and gave airplane rides. An airfield was held from this field in August of 1930. A flying team of brothers, Paul and Hunter had a distance record of 565 hours of continuous flight, without landing, in June of 1930. At this airfield they demonstrated their mid-air refueling process, using their two Stinson aircraft. The endurance plane was named "City of Chicago" and the refueling plane was named "Big Ben".

In the Fall of 1931 Ed Drapela had his hangar moved to the northeast corner of the Highway 81 and US 18 intersection. Ed Drapela had his hangar moved to the northeast corner of the Highway 81 and US 18 intersection. As the South Dakota's first woman pilot, Nellie Willhite, built a hangar to house her Eagle Rock airplane named "Pard." Mrs. Willhite's husband was a psychiatrist at the Human Services Center.

A Yankton municipal airport was started in 1939. This airport was also located on State land. It was located just north of where the Kolberg Manufacturing Co. is now located. A group of citizens was a pilot and instrument. Ed Drapela continued to operate his Yankton Flying Service from the field north of the Human Services Center. He bought the Curtiss Robin Aircraft at that time. In 1985 Ed Drapela moved his "Yankton Flying Service" operation to the Yankton Municipal Airport. An air show was held from this field on October 5, 1985. At air show Drapela took his Travelair B-Fladnep and did a series of aerobatics. Later in the day Elmer Brudevich, a student pilot from Yankton, took aloft in an airplane piloted by Norfolk Nebraska's pioneer pilot Andy Risses, and made a demonstration parachute jump.

In 1936 Ed Drapela left Yankton to start an aircraft operation at Grand Junction, Colorado. Later in 1936 Robert A. Nelson, a farmer living north of Yankton took over as operator of Yankton Municipal Airport. He first used a Curtiss Robin airplane, with the Tank air cooled conversion of the OSX. Mr. Nelson was a former student pilot of Ed Drapela, and also Andy Risses.

In 1941 the Civilian Pilot Training program was initiated at the Yankton airport. Bob Nelson was joined by Andy Risses of Norfolk, Nebraska in carrying out this program. Yankton College was involved in this ground instruction.

In 1942 Avis J. Bierman came to Yankton from Holdrege, Nebraska to become chief flight instructor, for Nelson and Risses' flight school. A.B. Bankson also came to Yankton as a flight instructor.

In 1940, the airport board member Hugh Dandforth secured options on 365 acres of agricultural land around the airport. This was about two miles north of Yankton at that time. This area is now the Yankton Municipal Airport. On Jan. 24, 1942 Yankton voted to raise $80,000 to build a new Yankton Municipal Airport. On June 11th plans were announced to start building the new airport. Not much progress was completed in 1942, as the old municipal airport continued to operate through 1945. In 1943 the larger hangar was completed and the south and east tile hangars were also built.

The Navy and Yankton College flight program was moved to the new Yankton Municipal airport in 1943, with Avis J. Bierman in charge of flight instruction. In late 1944 and early 1945 the east hangar was used to house German prisoners of war: this was a result of allied victories on the European and Pacific fronts. Some of the German prisoners of war were shipped to the United States for temporary housing.

After the Navy program ceased Mr. Bierman continued to manage and operate the Yankton airport. In the year of 1946, Mr. Bierman trained many pilots under the Veterans G.I. Bill. Some of the flight instructors employed by Bierman were Cy MeCoy in 1945-46, R.G. "Bud" Daggert and Clifford P. Amsden in 1946.

Cliff Adkin, has been, and still is, the long time manager and operator at the Yankton, South Dakota airport.

Early in 1947, the contract between the City of Yankton, and Mr. Bierman was terminated to allow for a new airport. The new airport was opened in 1950. The new airport was located south of Yankton. In 1950, the new Yankton airport was opened south of Yankton. It was a partnership of Alan B. Sparrowhawk, Chief flight instructor, Bruce Jamison, mechanic; Charles Collier, flight line service.

Some of the other aircrafts at the Yankton, South Dakota airport were the Spartan School of Aviation, at Tulsa, Oklahoma. Mr. Sparrowhawk, operated a flight
Closs was employed by Rockwell International. He was with the single engine division, until it closed in 1974.

K. Dean Iversen took over as Yakont airport operator and manager in early 1963. Mr. Iversen did business as Aviation Services. Mr. Iversen also had the Cesna Aircraft agency. Some of the pilots and instructors employed by Dean Iversen were Maurice Famedest, Paul Freng, Jack Smith, and Dennis Hayward. Aircraft maintenance was first provided by "Bud" Waterbury, and in later years by Jean P. Miller.

The Yakont Airport was renamed Chan Gurney Municipal Airport in 1965. The word “Municipal” was dropped in 1969, because financial support was received from state and Yankton County sources besides the City and Federal Gov’t. An additional 54.6 acres was acquired for the airport in 1965, and a medium intensity lighting project was carried out. In 1967 the runway was again extended now to 5,400 feet. In 1968 another 35 acres was purchased. In 1971 a new Airline Terminal building was built, also a new apron extension, taxiway lights, terminal building service road, more fencing, and a concrete service drive was done.

In the 1972-73 winter a fire destroyed some of the east aircraft service hangar. It was remodeled and improved in 1973.

Also in Yankton airport history something should be said about the activities of Yankton Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol. This was an auxiliary of the United States Air Force. The Yankton Squadron carried out search and rescue missions for downed aircraft, and also aided in Civil Defense and disaster emergencies. Originally there was a Squadron organized in Yankton during the later part of World War II. The first Commander was Peter E. Sorensen. Then Command of H.A. Shoemaker. It is disbanded at the war’s end.

A new Yankton Squadron was activated early in 1953. Charles H. Gurney was the Commander. Later Commanders were, Robert D. Warren, Gerald A. O’Connell, Ralph E. Gemmill, Jim Cwach, Jack G. Gunderson, David Arp, and K. Dean Iversen.

The Civil Air Patrol bought and installed the new lights this year. The new lights are about 1966. These lights served until the medium intensity lights were installed in 1965. In 1965 the Yankton Squadron was issued a PA-18 Piper Super Cub airplane. It was partially paid for by the Yankton squadron. This airplane was used by the Civil Air Patrol for training. It was used for pilot proficiency training. The Yankton Squadron had a so-called Sunset Patrol, in which they flew over Lewis and Clark lakes, at near sunset, to look for boats and people that were in distress. This was done regularly on weekends and holidays during the summer seasons. In April of 1970, against the wishes of the Yankton Squadron, the Civil Air Patrol claims that the Yankton Squadron’s PA-18 airplane over to another Squadron. The Wing Commander claimed that the Yankton Squadron was not active enough, and in later 1970 the Yankton Squadron was disbanded.

Several3 claims were made by the South Dakota Wing to organize another Civil Air Patrol Squadron at Yankton, but never enough interest was generated.

In the spring of 1973 Dean Iversen sold his interest in the Yakont airport operation to Delbert Keith and Ray Ondell. Dean Iversen was then employed by the Kolberg Manufacturing Co. of Yankton. He was employed as the pilot of the company’s aircraft.

The new airport operators did business as the Del-Ray Flying Service. Jack Smith and later Tom Russell did service work in the east hangar.

Some of the pilots and instructors employed by Del Keith, included Jack Smith, Rick Beito, Richard Dunnum, Bill Myers, Tom Law, and Myron Van Gerpen. Ray Ondell left the business after a year or so, and then Del Keith operated as the Del Keith Co.

In 1976 Del Keith flew the weather modification airplanes that were stationed at the Yakont airport. The Piper Twin Comanche was owned by a California corporation. Late in 1976 Del Keith sold his airport operation to Myron Van Gerpen. Del Keith left for the southwestern United States and flew weather modification airplanes for several years.

Presently he is Principal and Band Director at the Egan South Dakota High School.

Myron Van Gerpen is the present airport operator and airport manager. He is doing business as Falcon Aviation.

Dennis Mitchell has been operating a crop spraying service off the Yakont airport for about the past 15 years. The City of Yankton allowed Mr. Mitchell to build a service hangar just a few feet southeast of the east hangar at the airport. George Winchester was one of Denny Mitchell’s spray pilots. Kim Berg has been and is the present spray pilot.

Tom Russell has been doing the maintenance work.

In 1979 runway 13-31 was extended to 6,000 feet from the previous 4,400 feet, and runway 01-19 was hard surfaced; also visual approach slope indication (VASIS) lights were installed at all runway ends. In 1982 runway 01-19 was extended to the end of the northwest runway. They were previously installed on the southeast end of runway 13-31. In 1983 an Instrument Landing System (ILS) was installed for the northwest runway.

Some airline operation changes have been made in recent years. North Central Airlines merged with Republic Airlines in the early 70’s and Convair 440 turbo-prop airliners were flown in 1982 Republic Airlines merged into Northwest to Yankton was terminated. Triple A (AAA) airlines took over the airline service. They first used de Havilland Twin Otters and recently have been using a smaller airliner made in Brazil.

From, Yankton: A Pioneer Past, by R.F. Kandlemark.

From, The Stinsons, by John W. Underwood.

From, Yankton Press & Dakotan, Microfilm files.

by Jim Cwach

Balfany's Lunch

by Pears

It was the year 1933 that C.W. Balfany “Balt” took over the Balfany Lunch on Walnut Street. Everyone knew of the dirty 30’s and many days the skies were black with dust.

“Balt” had taught three years in Scotland High School, but with hard times they closed

The beginning of the Balfany’s Lunch north of the Dakota Theater - taken in Hamburg were 5, 6, 7, and dine in the manual training department.

He and Pearl Hennis, a beauty in Valmesser Barber and Beauty married and knowing everyone I took over the Balfany Lunch.

The business grew by leaps and no one had money so a 5 hamburger satisfying.

The Yankton College football to have good visitors in the small lunch would play their games over while hamburgers.

The Medical Clinic built on the site of the Balfany’s Lunch relocated a lot north of the Dakota Theater.

Hackberry tree shaded the front building so “Balt” built the shed the tree to save it.

“Balt’s” brother Jack helped it into the Maritani until the war end Jack came back and he and his wife took over the Balfany Lunch.

Anderson Live Stock Sale in era remodeled and “Balt” and hit the lunch room. Long hours and but good people made the days “Balt” bought some bottom pasture near Running Water bought and sold cattle.

The two sons, Don and Jim when they weren’t busy in school “Balt” passed away in 1961 at 71.

The Balfany Lunch was sold to Earl Bell and later to the Royal S.

The beautiful Hackberry tree wending the history of the Balfany;
BICKNELL LEMON INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

Bicknell Lemon Insurance Agency was incorporated on December 2, 1950 by Elgin Edward Lemon, Jr. and Robert O. (Buck) Bicknell.

"Buck" had been in the insurance business for a short while, inviting prospective customers into his "office" (the car he was driving) where he would assure them he had "just one policy left — so hurry!"

"Lem" had gone to insurance law school in Philadelphia after graduation from the University of Iowa. He was state sales director for the Insurance Company of North America for South Dakota. He held the same position for American Insurance Company of Rockford, Illinois before deciding to go into business with "Buck".

Their first office was with "Tommy" Thompson on the north side of the Bicknell Building at 314 Walnut. After a few months, they rented the street level office of the building owned by Mrs. W.J. Fountle on the northwest corner of Walnut and Third which later was the site of George Means Apparel.

"Buck" and "Lem" worked hard to get the insurance for the pole yards of the Rural Electric Association scattered around the state. This required them to inspect the pole yards themselves, which they accomplished by flying a small Cessna airplane from place to place. "Buck" was the pilot, having spent World War II as flight instructor for the V5 Naval students at Yankton College. "Lem's" job was to jump out of the plane as soon as they landed in the closest field to each pole yard and grab the plane so it wouldn't blow over. This venture insured the pole yards provided lots of exciting moments.

Early in their business they decided to establish a reinsurance company. They had everything in place ready to operate when it looked as though the Korean War was escalating. This might mean that one or both of them would be recalled to active duty, leaving on one to run the new company, so they gave it up.

"Buck" left the firm in 1953, to work for Farmer's Mutual of Madison, Wisconsin. He had been a district manager for Farmer's Mutual along with his agency work for Bicknell Lemon. He became a district manager in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

"Lem" took on the job of district manager for Farmer's Mutual in the area surrounding Yankton after "Buck" left. In 1955, he became state director of both North and South Dakota — "the vast Dakotas" — working full time in this position until retiring from it in 1983. He retained ownership of Bicknell Lemon during these years although he was not active.

Dudley D. Dewitt took over Bicknell's interest when Dudley joined the firm in late 1953. Shortly before Dudley's death in March of 1979, Howard "Holl" Nielsen began working for Bicknell Lemon. Hod stayed until the early 1980's when Elgin Lemon once again began spending full-time running Bicknell Lemon.

Bicknell-Lemon is still office in the Bicknell Building, where Mike Lemon with American Family Insurance also has an office. (The Bicknell Building has for many years been occupied by James B. Franz and Elgin Lemon although retaining the family Bicknell Building designation.) Mrs. Elgin (Ann) Lemon and Deborah Lemon also help in the office, where young friends, and those no longer young, know they can always find a jar of Lemon Drops for a sugar break.

Thoughts About The Insurance Business from Elgin Lemon From 1950 Until The Present

The years from 1950 to 1985 have been years of great change in the insurance business. We used to write one policy for the house, another for the contents, and another for the liability. Now they are all packaged into a Homeowner’s Policy with much broader coverage. The same is true with auto and commercial property insurance. It wasn’t uncommon to have ten different policies on one commercial building. Now, they, too, are in one package policy with much broader coverage.

Casualty and liability coverage have changed the most. We have gone from a society in which filing a suit was an uncommon occurrence to a society in which it is a common occurrence, with concurrent escalating cost in premiums to protect ourselves against such suits.

Yankton, the good place to live, has been kind to the Lemon family for thirty-five years and we look forward to at least another thirty-five years of association.

by Ann Lemon

BLAKEY’S PEST CONTROL AND CARPET CLEANING

TED BLAKEY
CARPET CLEANING
PHONE 665-7210
YANKTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

Ted Blakney.


Henry and Mary purchased some land east of Yankton on Highway 50. This is where they started a vegetable farm.

Ted was in business with his father on the vegetable farm and market until 1946 when he purchased a truck and was in vegetable and grain hauling for a year.

In 1947 Ted went to Amber Valley, Alberta Canada to visit some friends that he had met in Yankton. This was the J.D. Edwards family. He helped them with the harvest and visited there for two months before returning to South Dakota. Dorothy Edwards and Ted became engaged for a year and were married on October 22, 1948 they were married in Amber Valley. Dorothy was the youngest of the three daughters.

Ted and Dorothy returned to Yankton to live. Ted went into business with his brother Nate, for garbage disposal. They had a contract with the City of Yankton. They also continued to raise and market vegetables.

In 1952 the contract with the city was terminated and Ted and his family went to St. Paul, Minnesota to stay during the winter where Ted was employed by Armour Packing Plant.

Ted and his family returned to Yankton on Easter Sunday, 1953 and built a home on an acre of land that Ted’s parents gave them on the home farm. Ted’s parents had purchased this farm in 1915.

In June 25, 1956 Ted started a new business venture, Blakey Janitor Service. Ted had been wanting to start a business of his own and knew for sure it wasn’t vegetable farming. Ted talked to Maurice Connelly of Sioux Falls, a family friend who was already well established and he urged him to go for it. Ted contacted a friend, Darryl Boyd, who was selling janitorial supplies. He said, “I’ll help you,” and he gave Ted seven hours of instructions on how to operate a service and the machines and said, “you know it well enough, I’m going home to Sioux Falls.” He did step back and help him out from time to time. In 1964 business was booming. We were cleaning at 31 business places as well as going into homes and working.

In June 1966, Ted went to the South Dakota Pest Control Association. It was an organization that was twenty-nine years old and dying. It had a membership of 65. I told them how it should be run and two hours later they had a slogan “draft Blakney for President.” I was elected that day, June 8th, reelected with my Jaycee training, and January 1, 1967 had them to 215. 1966 was the year I went to Manhattan, Kansas to K State, took a short course in Entomology, became a licensed Exterminator, and opened Blakey’s Pest Control.

In the fall of 1978, I opened Ted Blakney Bell Bonds, a company which I still own and operate. I was also appointed to serve on an Advisory Board for the Department of Social Services.

by Ted Blakney

BOB’S PHOTOGRAPHY

Bob’s Photography was founded in May 1958 by Robert and Ella Litschewski. The business was completely new and modern photo finishing equipment was purchased to process films for local distributors.

Portrait photographs and weddings were also taken by the Litschewski’s in their first studio located in the corner house at 511 West 4th Street. In 1959 the business was relocated to the downtown area at 311 Cedar Street and continued there for two years while adding camera and photographic supply sales to their business.

In 1961, Robert and Ella purchased the first building located at 306 West Third Street. The well known Janousek Studio had been an established photo studio since the 1890’s. Louis Janousek had moved to Yankton from Nebraska around the turn of the century and began the business with a partner Henry Bruhn. The partnership lasted till 1907.

Marguerite Janousek, a daughter joined the business in 1915 and Robert Janousek, son joined in the 1920’s. The building was remodeled and a new front was built in 1924. Upon the father’s death in 1934, Robert, Nellie his wife, and Marguerite continued the business. Robert Litschewski joined the firm in 1948 as a teenager and continued to learn the trade under Robert Janousek’s tutoring. In 1961, the Janousek’s sold the building to Robert and Ella Litschewski and moved their portrait business to their home at 310 West Riverside Drive where they continued till Robert’s death in 1970.

The Litschewski’s continue to operate Bob’s Photography and at the time of this writing (1994) specializing in commercial photography, family groups, portraits, and reproductions of old photographs as well as the buying and selling of antique frames. The building at 306 West Third Street has been designated a historical structure in The National Directory of Historical Places and has been retained in its original design as much as possible by the Litschewski’s.

by Bob Lit

BURGI LUMBER YARD

Yankton, South Dak

The Burgi Lumber Yard, a humber yard, began business in the

at 310 Cedar Street, Yankton, So

William Burgi, standing on the north yard in February 1915.

Fred Burgi and Less Stump, book yard in February 1915.
BOB’S

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much as possible by the Litchewski’s.

by Bob Litchewski

BURGI LUMBER

YARD

Yankton, South Dakota

The Burgi Lumber Yard, a home-owned lumber yard, began business in the year 1890, at 310 Cedar Street, Yankton, South Dakota.

Meridian Bridge Company Certificates

Mr. Fred Burgi owned and managed the business, and he was identified with Yankton as a contractor and lumber dealer for almost 80 years. Coal, with which most homeowners heated their homes, was a large part of the business during those earlier years. Mr. Fred Burgi maintained his residence next door to the lumber yard for all the years that he lived and was in the business and was therefore “on call” on Sundays and holidays and evenings whenever farmers or contractors were in need of that special service. His son, Mr. William Burgi was also a part of the business as soon as he was finished with his education and remained in the Lumber Yard until his death in 1938. During many of these years Mrs. Lena Slamp worked at the Yard as bookkeeper and general office manager.

In 1938 after the death of Wm. Burgi, Mr. Bryan Brown came to Yankton to manage the Lumber Yard, at it’s same location on Cedar Street. The business has since been purchased by Pullerton Lumber Company, and they now have moved the Yard to its new and present location on North Broadway. People at the Pullerton Lumber Company made an interesting “find” a few years ago—shuffling goods in the millwork room, they moved a rack of doors and discovered a framed certificate on the wall. The certificate, intricately penned in script, cited a delivery wagon of the Fred Burgi Lumber Yard as being the first toll-paying horse drawn vehicle to use the Meridian Highway Bridge. The date was October 9, 1924 at 8 a.m. The signature on the certificate is D.B. Gurney, president and Mike Maner, Secretary of the Meridian Highway Bridge Company. It is complete with an official seal. The certificate now belongs to Mrs. Ray Hamann, formerly Leora Burgi, eldest daughter of Wm. Burgi, who now resides in Yankton.

by Leora Hamann

CAPITOL

UPHOLSTERY

Being in the upholstery business for over 40 years, Howard L. Kusman has brought new life to thousands of chairs, sofas, dining room suites and more throughout the entire Yankton County area. Mr. Kusman first brought him business to Yankton in April 1964 where he began his work at 214 Capitol, thus giving its the name Capitol Upholstery. He later took over the old Bob’s Candy Warehouse building at 608 West 9th Street and moved his business into it. Although the street address had changed, the name Capitol Upholstery followed with him to this new location. Mr. Kusman and his family reside at this same location so he can often be seen working late into the evening. Although eligible to retire, Mr. Kusman enjoys his work and plans on continuing with his business for as long as possible.

by Howard L. Kusman, Owner

CHRISTENSEN

CONSTRUCTION

COMPANY

Selma Christensen was born May 7, 1909 at Hooker, South Dakota, the son of Nels and Kinsa Christensen. The elder Christensens came here from Denmark two years prior to his birth. He had five sisters and one brother,
digging and wrecking building all became a part of the operation. Through his association with the Olson Construction Co. of Sioux City, Iowa he helped with the destruction of the Merchants Hotel, the Alcoholic Plant, Dakota Hall, Lincoln School and the Catholic Church — all historical buildings here in Yankton.

In 1960 a housing development was started on a 40 acre plot now known as Christensen Heights.

In 1974 the business was turned over to son, Darrell, and Selmar retired. Eight years later Darrell dispersed the business, and he and his wife, the former Sharon LeVeille, moved to Pompano Beach, Florida.


Through the years our family has grown to include six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. One granddaughter is deceased.

Selmar and Norelle still reside on the farm which has been annexed to the city of Yankton.

by Selmar Christensen

CIMPL PACKING COMPANY

B10


Original Cimpl plant, taken in 1949.


Family, growth, and customer satisfaction... seemingly unrelated terms, but when it comes to Cimpl Packing Company in Yankton, the words become synonymous with an industry that has evolved from a small meat market on Broadway, to a 120,000 square foot plant which features the latest in technological developments for meat processing.

Cimpl Packing Company first opened its doors in 1949. It was housed in a building that measured 45x80 feet, and processed about 10 head of cattle and 10 hogs per day. Fifteen people were included on the payroll.

Today, about 1,200 to 1,400 cattle are slaughtered each week at the expanded plant, and although hogs are no longer butchered on a commercial basis, the company processes pork that is delivered from other hog slaughtering houses. Fourteen delivery routes serve over 1,000 customers in an area which includes Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin and Illinois. Sales are also made to Japan, Holland, Venezuela and Africa.

With an annual payroll of about $2 million, the company now employs 135 full-time workers. In addition to its meat processing capabilities, Cimpl Packing Company also manufactures an average of 65,000 to 75,000 pounds of 40 to 45 varieties of sausage each week (increasing to between 100,000 and 110,000 pounds per week in the summer) with sales that total over $50 million.

But beyond the technological advances, before the many plant expansions, and before figures in the bookkeeping system went into the millions, the Cimpl family began humble when L.A. Cimpl opened a meat market in Yankton in the early 1900s. Assisted by his children, the business eventually expanded to Leuterville and Wagner.

In May of 1946, L.A.'s children Laddie, Jim, Leonard and Angelina formed a corporation in order to start a retail meat market in Yankton. Using their great uncle's trade, Czech recipes, they also produced sausages for the back of the family store, located on Broadway.

The early days of meat processing were not without trials, as rep... by Mr. L.A. Cimpl of 1947 Yankton Press-Dakota.

An angry cow, wandering along Street from Walnut to Mulberry, did quite a little excitement in its quest for freedom before the animal was finally caught by its pursuers.

Chief of Police Edward Sampson says a call came from Cimpl's Market reports that a cow belonging to them had broken away and police assistance in the race was being sought.

On Walnut Street the cow chased a woman's car. When the animal got away, its owner telephoned on the route....

Finally, George Minnes assisted chase with a quick tractor, and roped the cow at Mason Street. Then after quite a struggle, the animal was recaptured and excitement was over.

In her May of 1947 "Climbake" by Dale Broquet added: I can't see that a bull in a china shop be much worse than a cow on the front...
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of 1946, L.A.'s children Laddie, d and Angelina formed a corpora- tion in order to start a retail meat market in Yakton. Under the guidance of traditional Czech recipes, they also produced sausage in the back of the family store, located on Broadway.

The early days of meat processing at Cimpl's were not without trials, as reported by a May of 1947 Yakton Press and Dakotan:

An angry cow, wandering along Sixth Street from Walnut to Mulberry... caused quite a little excitement in its quest for freedom before the animal was finally captured by its owners.

Chief of Police Edward Sampson said that a call came from Cimpl's Market reporting that a cow belonging to them had broken away and police assistance in the recapture was being sought...

On Walnut Street the cow chased a woman into her house. When the animal got to Douglas, it passed a woman crossing the street with a baby buggy and went after her, but the police squad car got between the cow and the woman, who fled up the street. There were a few other incidents along the route. Finally, George Mines assisted in the chase with a truck tractor, and roped the cow at Mulberry Street. Then after quite a struggle, the animal was recaptured and the excitement was over.

In her May of 1947 "Clamabke" column, Dale Breugel added:

"I think I find it difficult to go shopping in a china shop would be much more than a cow on a front porch and I gather that folks living along the route which it traveled should have known how to expect her should have charged right into their house..."

I can remember being terrified as a youngsters when horses would go loose and go on a rampage up the side streets while they do this, how anybody in our neighborhood who ever looked out the window to see a cow being chased down the street!

That same year, the family felt it was time to expand, and a piece of property was purchased from Anderson Livestock Sales in east Yakton, where excavation began in September of 1947 for a new plant. In February of 1949, an article in the P&D reported:

Yakton's newest industry will make its bow next week, when open house is observed at the new packing plant constructed by Cimpl's, Inc.,... The handsome new building, which has been designed to take care of any future expansion needs, contains thoroughly modern facilities...

Two days before grand opening ceremonies were held on February 27, 1949, an advertisement in the P&D read:

A History-Making Event In Yakton's Progress Offering an Expanded Service to the People of Yakton and Its Trade Area

For many years Yakton has needed a first class modern packing plant to round out the services which this community provides to farmer and consumer. The new Cimpl Pack- ing Company plant, with a present capacity of 400 cattle and 400 hogs per month is a milestone in the economy of Yakton and its trade area. The new plant will provide ever- increasing markets for livestock in the area and will provide the consumer with stable supplies of properly processed fresh meats and meat products. Yakton salutes the Cimpl Packing Company and wishes it every success in its objective of serving its customers better and better as Yakton grows and prospers.

By the time of the expansion, another Cimpl brother, John, had joined the family company. It was then that L.A. took his three sons aside (Leonard and Angelina had since moved to Tabor and became associated with Cimpl's meat market there) and told them if they wanted to work together, they had to choose a boss. Since Laddie was the oldest, he was given the honor; and nearly 40 years later, Cimpl's holds the title of president. John as vice-president and plant superintendent, and Jim as secretary-treasurer and head of sales and production.

In 1952, the City of Yakton adopted a meat inspection ordinance. Consequently, a lay inspector joined the forces of Cimpl Packing Company. On duty at all times, the inspector was to perform both ante- and post-mortem examinations on all animals brought to the plant for slaughter.

The May 7, 1953 issue of the P&D reported:

It is the duty of the meat inspector to examine all cattle and hogs upon their arrival at the plant and again after they are killed in that they are not carrying any diseases. The inspector also must check that the meat inspec- tions are conducted under sanitary regula- tions.

Until 1954, Cimpl's was still smoking and curing sausage in the kitchens of its Brooklyn location. The Cimpl business was growing out of the smaller facility, however, so a smoother, more efficient operation was needed. Hence, in the summer of 1954, a new sausage kitchen was built at the east Yakton plant.

The new sausage kitchen, built in 1954, made it unnecessary to transport meats back and forth between the two Cimpl locations for processing. Sausage production also tri- pled. Other additions in the 1965 expansion project included a new sausage cooler, pre- fabricating room, employee welfare facilities and new office space.

The first addition to Cimpl Packing Com- pany brought a new face to the scene... not that of a new employee, but one of the most unusual, if not colorful characters in the Cimpl story.

During the construction process, a robin chose to nest on reinforcing iron that protruded from a thick concrete pillar, one of four that supported the new addition as it was built. The July 2, 1954 edition of the P&D carried this line under a photo of the brave bird: The mother robin... likes the sights and sounds of industry about her. She has chosen the most clamorous, if not glamorous spot in town for rearing her young... All around it are the jarring noises of construction — the clatter of hammers against metal, the clanging of pipe work where plumbers are busy, the characteristic sounds of tile setters setting tile and electricians stringing wire. Nothing disturbs the equanimity of Mother Robin... Her nest is a well-fortified place and she is in full command of the situation...

Cimpl Packing Company celebrated 10 years of successful growth with an open house on April 13, 1958, the same year Yakton was recognized as a representative All-American City by the National Municipal Leagues and Look Magazine. The National Provisioner of May 10, 1958 said of the occasion:

Citation of Yakton for "energetic, intelligen- dent and purposeful" effort might also be extended to the plant, since Cimpl's is a neat progressive small midwestern packing house... the plant lies close to Highway No. 50... Viewed from the highway, the landscaped structure appears to resemble an office building or research lab, rather than a meat plant.

During open house festivities, an estimated 2,200 guests visited the company, judged by the 1,700 cups of coffee and the nearly 500 bottles of that were consumed. The April 14, 1958 P&D reported:

Visitors saw the entire plant and had its operations explained and saw some of the machines in operation. Before leaving they were served meat, crackers and beer, together with coffee and tea.

Some of the sausage varieties that were available from Cimpl's at the time, and no doubt were served at the open house, includ- ed "Saturation," a ring bologna made some- what like liver sausage, but with a distinct flavor; "Beer Snack," a summer sausage; and blood sausage, made with barley. Also featured the old country Czech flavor.

Sadness struck the Cimpl family in Decem- ber of 1969 when L.A., founder of the business, died of a heart attack at his home.

As the company continued to grow (an occurrence common in the meat and re- frigeration units were installed in 1959) its public relations campaign expanded as well. In the 1961 Centennial Edition of the P&D, a Cimpl advertisement stated:

Barbecue sausages... make it easier for family health to you "Meat" is not just meat... not to Cimpl Packing Company, anyway. Proper selection, handling and aging — using United States Government standards only as mini- mum requirements... this makes "Meat" out of meat. You can depend on Cimpl's "Sunshine" Brands — the Quality Controlled Meats.

Participating in community activities has long been a Cimpl tradition. In April of 1963, the company took part in Industrial Appreci- ation Night, arranged by the Retail Com- mittee of the Yakton Chamber of Com- merce. Yakton stores held special drawings and sales to salute the over 2,000 industrial employees of the community.

Cimpl Packing Company gathered its 60 employees and their respective clans, making a group of 200 or more, loaded them into a 35-foot white trailer emblazoned with the Cimpl name and took them to downtown Yakton for an evening of browsing and shopping.

To show how much revenue Yakton businesses gained by having the packing company in town, it paid its employees that week in $2 bills, making it easy to tally where the money came from when retailers added up their sales receipts at the end of the week.

Members of the National Farmers Organi- zation brought their message of unhappiness with commodity prices to the fore the following week when they attempted to enforce a withholding action in the move- ment of livestock to suction markets and packing plants. Cimpl Packing Company was duly affected, as reported in the August 24, 1964 P&D.

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At the Cimpl Packiing Company, a group of NFO members stopped three trucks carrying stock already purchased by the firm and asked them to return. The truckers did not immediately do so, but stayed where they were pending a check in the legal aspects of the situation.

Laddie Cimpl, president of the company, said that the plant is a comparatively small packing plant and that if all or part of its normal supply of stock is cut off, it will probably be necessary to lay off some workers.

Fortunately the packing company did not have to deal with the violence (apparently brought about by members) of a local farmer from northeastern Yankton County experienced. After he sold three head of cattle that had continually been breaking out of the pasture, a dynamite explosion in the middle of the night tore a hole in his front yard, spewing debris everywhere. No one was hurt, but the apparent ire of NFO members was felt.

One of the biggest renovations of Cimpl Packing Company took place in 1865. On the first floor, a sausage storage cooler, map of the facility, spice room, kitchen supply storage, sausage manager's office and smokehouse area were built. A beef cooler, beef boning and fabricating cooler, welfare room, locker rooms, office area and loading docks were built on the second floor. With the expansion, 30 employees were added to the staff of 80.

The company Christmas party of 1865 had special significance as employees celebrated the 200th anniversary of the business in Yankton. The P&D of December 14, 1865 reported:

Laddie Cimpl presided as toastmaster of the occasion. The tables were prettily decorated, all with green napkins on which were painted a pretty flower in rose colors, the center of the flower bright red. The tables were set handsomely, all with fine silvered dishes, gold cutlery, golden wine glasses and rich laced cloth. All the dishes were placed in the center of the table. The glass from the bountiful punch bowl was passed around the table.

There were 155 guests at the dinner, including employees, husbands and wives. A catered roast beef meal was served. The employees all received their annual Christmas bonus at this time.

As Cimpl's company increased in the 1860s, it continued to keep pace with employee relations, as it does today. Over the years, Christmas bonuses, a company steak fry, picnics and other benefits, as well as 10, 15, 20, 30 and 40 year awards, have been given to a family business, with the concept spreading to the people who work there.

Communication with employees is also high on the list of priorities for Cimpl's. Early morning announcements are made on the public address system and meetings and one-on-one meetings with personnel are not uncommon.

The company is proud that its people are always recognized and cared for. Some employees have been at Cimpl's for their entire working life...there is little turnover in the company. They are all treated fairly and management works very hard to keep in touch with them.

In 1907, The National Provisioner of August 6 reported that Cimpl's was producing a variety of one-pound chunks, a popular item on grocery lists for shoppers. Two Czech specialties were mentioned—Proscneko, lean pork shoulder trimmings and beef chunks, and Jatzernick, pork tongue, lean pork trimmings, head and cheek meat. Both were seasoned with formulations developed by Martin Rath, the company's 15-year veteran and sausage maker who periodically revisited Bavaria for annual education in the art of sausage making.

By 1968, new horizons were opened for Cimpl's with the beginning of full federal inspection. Federal grading, to insure Cimpl customers of consistent quality, had been taking place since 1952, but the addition of federal meat inspection (seven full-time federal inspectors joined the staff to supervise production every day), gave Cimpl's the opportunity to broaden its sales area. It had previously been restricted to sales within the boundaries of South Dakota. In the November 14, 1969, P&D, Laddie said:

"We have served Pierre, Osouna and other parts of South Dakota more than 50 miles away — yet we were not allowed to provide a market just across the Missouri River in Nebraska and just a short distance away to points in Iowa."

This new flow to enter markets in many parts of the nation. No physical changes in the plant were needed to be recognized as a federally inspected meat plant by the Consumer and Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, but departments were revamped in order to meet the rigid inspection requirements.

Cimpl Packing Company has always been a non-union plant, and at the close of the 1865 census voted against a bid by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers Workmen of North America for representation. In an election held in December of that year, the vote showed 65 against and 11 workers for the principles of the organization.

A new decade — the 1920s — opened with Cimpl Week, celebrated in October of 1920, noting 25 years of the family meat business. The sixth expansion had recently been completed, adding an additional 6,100 square feet and an additional portion control freezer. From its humble beginnings with 15 employees in 1948, Cimpl's now employed 118 people. Interstate commerce, brought on by federal inspection, had broadened the company's sales territory. Trucks were handled by eight salesmen, to northern Nebraska and northwestern and central Iowa, as well as in its home state. Beef kill was now averaging about 100 to 125 head per day and weekly weekly sausage tonnage produced by the plant had grown to between 50,000 and 75,000 pounds per month.

"A Cimpl Open House" on June 11, 1972, featuring a tour plant and open-air plant, honored the company's customers and commemorated the firm's progress. Over 1,000 guests were treated to all you can eat refreshments (more than 1,100 pounds of beef and pork were served) and chances to win door prizes.

By this time, the plant had expanded to 50,000 square feet, employing 130 people. The annual payroll had grown to exceed $1 million.

Beef shortages followed the brews of Cimpl officials in April of 1973. The problem was noted in a national and west central prompts by high grocery prices and supported by housewives across the country. The shortages raised the prices of beef. A comment note that the meat industry was "really in a state of confusion."

The low supplies of beef were caused by President Richard Nixon's ceiling on meat prices — consequently cattlemen were not selling their stock. Part of the local problem included members of the NFO because 20 percent of the cattle brought to Cimpl's came from them; and late in March, they withdrew, not to supply anymore until further notice. On top of it all, packers were having difficulty determining exactly what price levels the ceilings involved.

The possibilities of a plant shut-down caused concern for Cimpl's. The April 2, 1973 P&D reported, however:

The Yankton company, Cimpl said, will try to keep its facilities open because "A small house makes its trade on service."

Although operations become difficult, the plant hopefully will not go beyond a partial shut-down, Cimpl added.

The article said the meat boycott had not reduced meat orders from the company's outlets, but management said business had been slowing because of the high price.

Uncertainty continued throughout the latter part of April, 1973, but on April 5, the P&D stated:

Although short supplies of beef and "confusion" on the marketplace had opened the possibility of a shut-down earlier this week, that concern is generally over.

Laddie Cimpl, president and general manager, said, "We're making every effort to keep operating and the supply has improved. We're definitely going to stay open if we can get cattle and people will buy it (meat)."

Demand was re-stimulated with several expansions in the 1970s. After the addition of a new loading cooler in 1969, a new slaughter area was constructed in 1971, and coolers were placed in the old area. New meat coolers and another employee welfare room added to the growing building.

Meat storage area was enlarged, and a boxed beef operation was added, along with a new administrative office. An Expense approved waste pre-treatment facility was built in 1978.

The federal government instituted a new grading system, implemented for the first time at Cimpl Packing Company during the last week of February, 1974. It had little effect on the firm, as reported by a February 16, 1974 issue of P&D:

"We kill the kind of cattle our customers demand and in two days of grading here, there were very few cattle that graded good — it's hardly noticeable."

Last month, president of Cimpl Packing Company says the new federal grading system will have little bearing on the kind of cattle he buys for slaughter in the Yankton packing firm.

"There may change there are some pluses and minuses. As far as the new grades go... leaner beef will be upgraded..."

"As far as the consumer is concerned, as time goes on there will be leaner cattle on the market."

"That supposedly is what the federal government was after when they proposed this new grading — less grading should be fed to cattle."

Holding customer preferences and staying with the trends, helped Cimpl Packing Company celebrate another anniversary — its 100th year of beef sales to the meat business for over 40 years. By 1974, the firm's payroll had reached over $1 million, and $18 to $19 million a year was the purchase of livestock, figured the area economy because percent of the beef purchased by came from local markets. Some far been sold to Iowa buyers for the entire 25 years it has been in the high for just a few, P&D Editor, the Heigel said, "faded his readers with about Cimpl's on Page one in a production of the newspaper.

What Yankton industry produced 40 and 45 products?".

One of those products is about t and the long which are pr one month, if any, for production in the miles in any direction from Y

Heigel said the quit in his "Hi, Neighbors" 11, 1974.

The Answer — in case you have it out by now, the product mention "20-case" story on Page One of the Dakotans last Thursday was the low (It's) a little hard to imagine a winner from Yankton to Sioux some 15-20 miles beyond Sioux FIt's all fact. It's no novelty.

One of the mottoes of Cimpl Company is "Serving you better i pleasure," and in addition to its to by, 1974, the company was the some 200,000 pounds of sausage, month, in the form of about 40 Processed products at that time three kinds of winners. A whole bologna, ring bologna, summer Cervelat and other varieties. Ordering facts were noted by a P&D article:

"All are edible by-products (bog, livers, oxtails and other) and to many foreign nations through Most of the hogs go to Canada. T offficial is shipped to Sioux City every the Yankton packing firm does rendering facility.

Another interesting change is the smoke house... is air conditioned and handled water for control, and to some five tons of sawdust from Arkansas is used en each.

"The packing concept was set point in the business 25 years ago black was laid. Laddie said in 1974: a family business, but our fun includes more than merely the Cir it can include as many as one hundred many wonderful people who share in the products we make and sell. Some of the finest employees could have — and we are proud of those employees."

When expansion from the early years, 90 routes, 13 routes were used to refrigerated trucks serving 75, including 75 schools.

A few years ago, the company with under the beef business, the decade did not work as well as anticipated starting from 1978 South Dakota — from 3.9 million million — forcing Cimpl Packing

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DAKOTA NATIONAL BANK

Fred Chester Danforth was born March 10, 1854 in Prairie du Sac, Wisconsin. He was the son of Calvin E. Danforth and Sarah Amanda Waterbury Danforth. There were four boys in the family, namely, James Albert, Hobert Willis, Frederick Chester and Frank Calvin. When Fred was six years old the family moved to Charles City, Iowa. He was graduated from Ames in agriculture and literary courses and later received his law degree from Iowa University at Iowa City in 1875. He practiced law in Charles City and Spencer, Iowa. In 1890 he returned to Farm in Floyd County, Iowa where he was engaged in farming and stock raising.

Fred C. Danforth married Electa Waterbury on October 10, 1878 at the bride’s parents home in Riverston Township, Iowa. Electa Waterbury was born in Riverston Township, Iowa (Charles City). On March 20, 1858 to Sceoff S. Waterbury and Ann E. Willis Waterbury. She was one of six children, namely, May E., John P., R. Belle, Willis, Electa A. and an infant. Sceoff S. Waterbury was born in St. Lawrence Co., New York on December 7, 1833, the son of Shadrack Waterbury, a native of Connecticut. In 1860 Sceoff Waterbury went to Jefferson County, Wis. until the spring of 1864 when he moved to Charles City, Iowa. He married Annie E. Willis in 1856. Ann was born April 11, 1833, the daughter of Asenon E. Willis and Esther Palmer Willis. Electa Waterbury attended a Free School in Charles City.

Fred and Electa had two boys while they lived in Iowa, namely James Arthur, July 18, 1881 and Harry Morgan, December 3, 1882. In 1885 his brother-in-law John Waterbury and sister-in-law’s husband Wood contacted Fred Danforth to come to Parker, South Dakota and take over the managing of the bank there. The president of the bank wanted to get a divorce and needed to go to California for his divorce, as the bank was having a financial deficit and had made a large loss. As a result, in 1888 he married and moved his family to the Parker, South Dakota where Fred took over the management of the bank. They were on the original pioneer homestead near the railroad and a garden. Mr. Danforth believed boys should have chores and learn about farming.

Their next three boys were born in Parker, namely, Charles Irving, June 6, 1889, Theodore Chester, July 15, 1891 and George Chester, July 5, 1900. The Parker newspaper recorded the news when Charles was born: “A young son, a very young son who only weighed about six pounds, took advantage of P. C. Danforth’s absence last Thursday to come to his home and remain as “boss of the house.” Mr. Danforth was telegraphed for at once, but did not reach home until Saturday, where he found his family quite comfortable and completely under the rule of the new-comer. It is needless to announce that he was unable to oust the young man, or that he no longer enters home with the air of command, but tip toes gently in fear and solitude depicted in his face, and is ready to “walk” at a moment’s notice. However, he treated the boys handsomely, and they smoked in honor of the new “boss,” (curious since Mr. P. C. Danforth never smoked.)

In 1909 Fred C. Danforth started the Dakota National Bank in Yankton, South Dakota. His son Arthur came to Yankton to be in the bank. Mr. Fred C. Danforth was the President. In 1910 Arthur Danforth married Ruth Harrison of Minneapolis, Minns. Since Ruth had gone to Yasser and University of Minneapolis and was interested in music and drama, it was thought by Mr. and Mrs. Danforth that they would be happier in the larger city of Yankton. In 1912-13 Fred was President of the South Dakota Bankers Association.

Fred and Electa had several cattles at Lake Okoboji and took their family there for the summer months.

In 1917 Fred and Electa moved to Yankton. They moved into the home at 417 Pine St., and after moving he severed his connection with the Citizens Bank of Parker after being its President for 15 years. From the Yankton Press and Dakota: “Mr. and Mrs. P. C. Danforth are now settled in the former Sig F. Hangar home which they purchased. Some real estate oil paintings which Mr. Danforth bought over from Parker, will be in the new rooms being opened at the Dakota National Bank. These paintings are a decided art addition to Yankton.”

These paintings are now at the First Dakota National Bank. Mr. Danforth’s portrait, now in the Danforth Room at the bank, first hung in the State House for his gift to South Dakota of introducing a new breed of horses. Mr. Danforth moved to South Dakota. He went to Belgium and brought them to South Dakota because he believed they would do well. The Danforth Company of which he was President gave $25,000 to the building of the Minnesota Bridge and was joined by the bridge would be a great addition to the City of Yankton.

Mr. Danforth was also President of the Wokoda State Bank, President of the Security Savings Bank of Ironton, Iowa. Fred C. Danforth died at Lake Okoboji on August 12, 1920. He was a member of the Knights Templar, a Scottish Rite Mason, and member of El Rial Mystic Shrine at Sioux Falls.

Electa Danforth became very active in Christ Church Episcopal in Yankton and several other organizations after Mr. Danforth’s death. In 1983 she started a radio program on the station WNAX for the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union. She held this position for the time of her death, March 14, 1938 the Yankton Press and Dakota reported: “She was a member of the corporate board of Yankton College, a member of the executive committee of the Yankton Kollage and the American Red Cross and ever ready to assist with the promotion of its field, a member and worker in the D.A.E.R.P.O., of the Woman’s Auxiliary of Sacred Heart Hospital in which she served as an officer for many years; a valued member of the Yankton Business and Professional Woman’s Club where her counsel was prized by the younger women of business and professional life. Mrs. Danforth was also a continuous member of the Yankton Woman’s Club. To these organizations she gave not only the support of her membership but was faithful in attendance and service in all of her associations but perhaps the two organizations where her assistance meant more to the membership than any of the others were the Women’s Christian Temperance Union and the Women’s Relief Corps. And of these two, possible sensing their dependence on her, Mrs. Danforth was particularly loyal. She was regular in attendance, gave wisely of advice, served as officer in any position where she was needed and by her presence gave strength to the tenets taught. She touched many lives and because of the fairness of her own living she leaves an influence which will never cease.”

by Marjorie Danforth Gross

DALE ELECTRONICS, INC.

The history of the Yankton South Dakota division of Dale Electronics, Inc. can be traced back to 1951 with the founding of two different companies, one in Columbus, Neb- raska and one in Sioux City, Iowa. Dale Electronics started as Dale Electronics, Inc. in April, 1951 in Columbus, Nebraska under the direction of founder and first president George R. Back. Backed by a few Columbus businessmen, Dale began manufacturing electronics in the basement of the second floor of a Columbus retail establishment. That same year Sioux Radio Products, Inc., a manufacturer of small custom electronic components, was founded in Sioux City, Iowa by Richard Harm, its first president. In 1967 Sioux Radio was moved to Yankton, South Dakota.

As the original Dale product became a success, the company rapidly expanded both its product offering and its manufacturing locations. That expansion brought Dale to Yankton in September, 1969 when Sioux Radio Products was acquired by Mr. Harm. At the time of the acquisition the Sioux Radio name was changed to Dale Electronics, Inc., Sioux Division. In 1961 Dale itself was acquired by Lionel Corporation as a wholly owned subsidiary. Lionel was best known for its endeavors in the electric train field. In August, 1962 president George R. Back left the company and William Simpson became the firm’s second president.

Bobby G. Davis, the first Dale sales rep in South Dakota, became the firm’s first Dale Sales Director, 1977. By 1977 Dale had become the largest electronics manufacturer in the state and was the largest employer in the area. In 1982, a new facility to house the Dale South Dakota Division was opened and the company began purchasing and incorporating other companies such as R.H. Improvements, a laundry and sewing company, and Davis Manufacturing, a furniture company.

Dale Electronics South Dakota Division is a fully integrated manufacturer of electronic components and assemblies.

by Die

FALCON AVIATION INC.

Falcon Aviation was incorporated South Dakota corporation in February 1967 and began providing aviation service for Custer County. The company was originally formed and wholly owned by Mr. J. O. Donoho, former Chief of Police and Air Force fighter pilot. Col. Van Gerps the airport manager as well as his sole owner of Falcon Aviation and its management.

Falcon Aviation bought the AT
corporate leased facilities from Mr. Yankton and provides charter service to single and multi-engine aircraft for private and air port rating pilots, aircraft maintenance services, car rental and general aviation.

Falcon Aviation employs a full-time certified meteorologist, a part-time line service and maintenance staff.

Some of the personnel employed Aviation have included: Ken Winkle, Rodney Neher, Kevin Hehnen Schuttler, Steven Schottler, Kelvin, Delays Johnson, Gary Dahlerup, Jr., Dennis, Rossen, Golden, Dave Shea Payne and Melinda Johnson.

by Myron D. Va
First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Bakersfield opened its doors for business in July of 1955. It was the idea of several ambitious men, who in April of 1954 began developing plans for the establishment of a savings and loan.

Savings and loans were first originated in 1913 and were created for the purpose of accumulating savings of members for financial homes for other members, which is the principal under which our institution was organized and continues to operate.

Our institution was the first savings and loan in the entire state of South Dakota to be located in a community the size of Bakersfield. The assets on opening day amounted to $100,000.00 and we operated with one full-time officer and a part-time employee. At the end of the first year of business on June 30, 1954, assets had increased to over $414,000.00 and loans to over $461,000.00. This was considered a substantial growth for the first year of business.

The institution grew rapidly and by 1969 had reached assets of over $1,400,000.00. In early 1974, First Federal evaluated the economics of the nation, and it was determined that if First Federal Savings and Loan was to serve people in the smaller communitie of South Dakota, it would be necessary for the institution to commence with an expansion program. Prior to commencing the expansion program, the institution turned in its financial records over to a manual accounting system to a computer processing system. This data processing system is operated through the computer services of the Financial Information Trust of Des Moines, Iowa, and provides us with the most innovative and modern data processing services available within the United States.

With the completion of the computer conversion, construction of First Federal's first branch office in Yankton was completed in 1975. The facilities are located at 4th and Walnut Streets in a totally new 1800 square foot building. John J. Hughes is the manager of this office which employs four people.

The facilities are totally modern and innovative, including computer processing of all data, drive-in teller operations, free parking and more. Along with providing savings and checking services to the area, First Federal has been actively involved in lending funds to area residents for housing. Our friendly personnel welcome the opportunity to be a part of the Yankton business community.

First Federal continued its growth, not only by branch offices, but by expanding the home office facilities in Bakersfield in 1977. This structure has become known as the home of First Federal Savings and Loan.

Our growth continued in 1978 with the opening of a branch office in Mitchell. By 1980, our assets had grown to more than $45,000,000.00, with savings deposits of over $41,000,000.00. In 1981, the institution located its third branch office in a totally renovated building in Wagner giving the community its first full-time savings and loan. In October of 1981, the Parkston branch was opened. Later in 1981, the fifth branch office was opened in Brookings.

First Federal is a federal association, chartered by an agency of the United States government and is a member of the Federal Home Loan Bank System and the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, which insures all deposits of the Association.

First Federal Savings and Loan Association today is an ever-growing financial institution with assets of over $66,000,000.00. First Federal continues to maintain its desire to serve the savings and borrowing needs of the six communities in which it operates.
wire rope terminals for use primarily in aircraft, was incorporated in Yakton in 1937 as Croll-Freeman Company doing electrical wiring, sales of radios and other appliances as well as a variety of other jobs. Mr. E. Croll did not actually own the operation of the firm.

In 1941, the aircraft business was formed. The firm was located in the old fire hall across the street, now the Moose Building, until 1945. At that time it was making bomb fuses for aircraft and the plant was in operation 24 hours a day - 7 days a week.

In 1944 Mr. Freeman started construction of a building to house the manufacturing operation at Eighth and Walnut Streets. The present building was completed and the company moved into it in the late year of 1945.

Ed Freeman gained full ownership of the business in 1945 and it became The Freeman Company.

By Lynette Swensen

GAVINS POINT NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

The construction of several large flood-contrated waterworks dams on the Missouri River by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in the 1940's and 1950's drastically changed the character of the river. New habitat that would support a different variety of fish species was created. Hatcheries were established to help provide fish for these new reservoirs. Congress authorized the construction of Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery on June 13, 1956, and in May 1957 approximately 235 acres of bottom land were acquired from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on permit. Construction on the hatchery building itself was completed in June 1960 and a small visitor's center within the hatchery building was finished in 1961. Construction on the very popular Gavins Point Aquarium with its thirteen viewing tanks was completed in 1961. Nearly 140,000 visitors a year are able to view over forty species of fish; all of which can be found in the Missouri River system.

The hatchery's production program is continuously changing and expanding to meet the needs of fishery biologists and managers attempting to maximize the use of aquatic habitats within the complex Missouri River system. Originally, Gavins Point's production needs were satisfied by utilizing about twenty-six acres of ponds, eight outside raceways and nine indoor tanks. Increasing demand for walleyes, smallmouth bass, and paddlefish production brought about the construction of thirteen additional acres of pond space in 1984. Construction of the ten new ponds was a result of a joint funding effort of the South Dakota Game and Fish Department and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

An account of Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery's annual production program is impressive. It is a complex program involving not only large numbers of fish produced but also an unusually large variety of species. Although demands for various species change slightly from year to year, a typical production year would result in northern pike fry: 2,000,000; northern pike fingerling: 150,000,250,000; walleye fry: 15-20 million; walleye fingerling: 1-5-2 million; muskie fingerling: 20,000-30,000; tiger muskie fingerling: 20,000-50,000; saugeye fingerling: 250,000-500,000; largemouth bass fingerling: 200,000-750,000; smallmouth bass fingerling: 450,000-900,000; bream fingerling: 1-2.5 million; channel catfish fingerling: 500,000; paddlefish fingerling: 25,000-30,000; yellow perch: 250,000; channel cat fingerling: 300,000-400,000; rainbow trout fingerling: 50,000-40,000; cutthroat trout fingerling: 30,000. In previous years the hatchery has also been involved with the production of lake trout, longnose sucker, silver carp, bighead carp, and grass carp.

The hatchery's first manager was Russ Stewart followed by Gene Mason, Bill Hunt and Roger Cooper. Mr. Cooper has now been at the hatchery for over sixteen years. He has spent many long hours on the banks raising fish for at least two more years. Roger has seen a lot of personnel come and go. One, Galen Butcher, our Regional Director now in the Denver Regional Office, spent a short tour at Gavins Point. His name has been mentioned many times in this career. Two other old timers lending stability to the Hatchery Program are Bill Lynch and Clair Sudbeck. Bill, well known to locals and thousands of tourists, devoted twenty-four years to the aquaculture and recently retired in 1981. Clair has been a bio-technician for over twenty-four years and is responsible for all maintenance activities and pond production at the hatchery.

New personnel at the hatchery are: Fred Sayers, bio-technician at the aquarium; Bonnie Doyle, clerk; and Dave Badhoff, biologist. Other personnel currently working at the hatchery are: Dave Allardice, Assistant Manager; Cheryl Anderson, clerk; Mike Arnes, aide; and Rob Holmes, aide. In the summer of 1955, the hatchery employed a number of seasonal personnel through such programs as the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC), Community Employment and Training Act (CETA) and student work study programs. Also, volunteer participants in the Senior Volunteer Program and Junior Volunteer Program.

By Dave Allardice

THE GLOBE CLOTHIERS

After Greg Hintzen was discharged from the Army following World War I, he lived with his family in Sioux City, Iowa. His father, Anton, had sold their family clothing store in Ashton, Iowa, several years earlier. Greg worked for National Cosh Register's and E&W Clothing for about a year. But he was looking for a town in which to buy or start his own men's clothing store. He had made several trips into Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. Of all the towns that Greg visited he liked Yankton for many reasons. One day Greg, his father and brother John, came up on the train to talk to W.W. "Jim" Bouka about buying his business. They had a good talk but Jim didn't think he wanted to sell at this time. The Hintzens were down at the depot waiting for the Sioux City train when Jim caught up with them and said yes he would sell Greg the store. Jim Bouka had bought the store from Sam Proefrock, who started Groom's Golden Eagle Clothing Store, when the Fante block was rebuilt after the fire of 1903.

Frank Biegelmeier was a Yankton High School student working for Jim Bouka at the time of the sale and he continued to work for Greg Hintzen until he graduated from YHS in 1921. Claude Murray was the first full time employee. (See picture) In 1920 Frank Biegelmeier recalls selling Style Plus three-piece all wool suits for $17.00 and overalls for 95 cents.

The name Globe was selected by Greg because there was already a Hentsch Clothing and a Heitgen Drug Store on Main Street. The store had been in operation since 1920. Many stores, banks and farms were forced out of business. The Hintzens took eggs, turkeys, meat, wood, coal and other goods for clothing and extended retail credit to many, such as Les Force who was a local farmer, who needed help in getting started during the hard times. The Globe was one of only a few clothing stores in the state that survived the dust and depression.

Dolores and Clyde Prouty came to Yankton College in the late 1930's and started to work part time at the Globe. Later they became full time employees. When World War II broke out Don left for Europe and Clyde left for war service in the Navy. The Globe had some tough times during the war as help and merchandise were very hard to get. Greg would make long train trips to the manufacturers and try to get what goods he could as war production took most of the clothing. The store shelves were full of mostly hand made clothing. Customers often looked for themselves and found no white shirts in them. After the war, Greg, his wife Loin, Don and Clyde formed a corporation, with the help of new attorney Frank Biegelmeier, owner of the Old Globe. Later Ed Waters, Lawrence Hintzen and Leonard Moser joined the corporation.

The old building of Gavins Point Dam in the 1950's Lawrence Hintzen remembers selling the steel workers a new pair of overalls and a dozen leather work gloves on Saturday. The next Saturday they were back for the same order; the overalls were in alread

by Lawrence

GOETZ, HIRSCH KLIMSKICH LAW

The law firm of Goetz, Hirsch at 311 W. Third Street, Yankton Dakota, continues as one of the firms in the state.

The firm was begun by Levi B. 1878 with partner A.H. Orvia, as of French and Orvia became with throughout the state. Levi's joined the firm in 1936 and practised death in 1959. He was joined by B. French in 1942 and he practised 1947.

Associated with the firm first as and then after having studied law Kathleen Dany was admitted to of law in 1941 and practised in 1973.

James T. Goetz and Robert merged practices to continue the at the death of Louis B. French in January 1968 as a junior partner Tripp, South Dakota, office.

A number of associates were u until William J. Klimskich became in 1977 and the Tripp office of v split off to Mr. Harrison a

by Goetz, Harrison

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GREGG MOTOR CO., INC.

The Gregg Motor Co., Inc. was incorporated in 1947 with John L. Gregg as President, Peter Mettel as Vice President and Allene M. Gregg as Secretary-Treasurer. The company was located at 221 Capitol Street, Yankton, South Dakota. New cars were hard to come by for newly franchised dealers, as new dealers were subjected to a quota system and before World War II new dealers who had not been in business, therefore had no quota. However, Gregg Motor sold used cars, going back east and driving them back. With used cars sales and a few new cars to be sold and a very good body shop and mechanical shop setup, the company prospered and bought property across the street at 214 & 216 Capitol Street. In 1963 Jack Gregg graduated from college and went to work as a salesmen. In 1965 he bought the dealership and operated it out of 214 & 216 Capitol Street until 1981, at which time he bought some land on East Highway #50 and erected a new building.

1968 - 1985

In 1968, Pontiac sales continued to be good. Profits were very low but so were expenses and it was great to see so many new Pontiacs around the area. In June 1968 we acquired the American Motors Car Franchise. Little Rambler Americans were selling for $1,050. You could buy this brand new car for $500.00 down and about $60.00 per month for 36 months. We moved our showroom to 214 Capitol St. (Riser Hotel). In 1969 the popular car was the Pontiac Grand Prix. The hood was about 7 feet long.

Car sales continued strong and predictable until 1974. This was the first "energy crunch". The "catalytic converter" and "unleaded gas" and the $1.00 price increase hit us. Oil prices skyrocketed and oil shortages were reported. This caused the price of gas to go near $9 per gallon with predictions of $1.00! The big car became a "dog" on the market. Nobody wanted a "gas-guzzler". In fact, the government was considering a gas-guzzler tax. Small economical cars were selling for a premium. There was suddenly a shortage of small cars. They were not discounted - they were sold for $1,000.00 over sticker. Customers were almost shamed into buying small cars. Thus, the foreign Volkswagens, Datsun, Toyota economy cars were very popular and demanded a premium price. Gas pump prices fluctuated daily. No gas was seen and it was hard to pump our own gas and sometimes even pay for it before the pump would be turned on.

In 1977 the big car was on its way back. But the manufacturers were already downsizing the big cars. They were trying to go outside but bigger on the inside. 1979 was probably the best sales year. During this year we also got the Jeep Franchise. The year 1979 also brought on another energy shortage. People were waiting in line to pay $2.90 per gallon. 1980 turned out to be the worst year ever. National trends showed sales down by over 50% and it was that way right here in Yankton. The sales slump continued. In August, 1981 we moved into a brand new facility three miles east of Yankton on Highway #50. The sales began to pick up because of our new location but nationwide we were still in a "recession". Nobody ever really knew what that meant. We acquired the Renault Franchise in 1981, the first "foreign car" we ever had.

Gregg Motor Co., Inc. is now operated and owned by John L. Gregg II and Judith F. Gregg.

by John Gregg

GURNEY SEED AND NURSERY COMPANY

A Company History

Gurney Seed & Nursery Company has been a Yankton landmark since the days when its historic cottonwood has stood near the confluence of the Missouri steamboat line, when a packet of seeds cost a nickel and 100 apple trees could be had for $12.

But even before they built their seed business in 1898, the Gurney family was involved in gardening. In 1890, Alonzo Gurney was already growing fruit trees on his property in Massachusetts. He found his friends and neighbors were anxious to buy his nursery stock and he continued to grow and sell trees until his death in 1931.

Alonzo's son, Charles W. Gurney, moved west to Iowa after his father's death. Discharged from Civil War service, Lt. Colonel C.W. Gurney opened his first seed company in the 1860s. The Colonel operated Hesperian Nurseries in Monticello, Iowa, for several years before he moved his business to Dixon County, Nebraska, in 1882. Recognizing the trade potential in a thriving river town like Yankton, C.W. Gurney opened a branch office there and moved his headquarters to the growing South Dakota town in 1895.

by Lawrence Hintgen


and the gloves gone.

In 1979 the size of the store was doubled by expanding into half of the old Scott Dine Store building. In 1984 the store was completely remodeled, painted and carpeted.

The Globe Clothiers is still operated by the same family. Greg's son, Lawrence, became manager in 1975.

by Lawrence Hintgen

GOETZ, HIRSCH AND KLIMISH LAW FIRM

The law firm of Goetz, Hirsch & Klimisch at 311 W. Third Street, Yankton, South Dakota, continues as one of the oldest law firms in the state.

The firm was begun by Levi B. French in 1878 with partner A.H. Orvis, and the firm of French and Orvis became widely known throughout the state. Levi's son, Willis, joined the firm in 1936 and practiced until his death in 1969. He was joined by his son, Louis B. French in 1942 and he practiced through 1967.

Associated with the firm first as a secretary and then after having studied law in the firm, Kathleen Darby was admitted to the practice of law in 1941 and practiced until her death in 1975.


A number of associates were with the firm until William J. Klimisch became a partner in 1977 and the Tripp office of the firm was split off to Mr. Haar's solo practice in 1980.

by Goetz, Hirsch and Klimisch

THE GLOBE CLOTHIERS

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College of Gurney Seed Catalogs.

In 1906, C.W. Gurney, his seven sons and one nephew incorporated as Gurney Seed and Nursery Company. The price lists of the early days were gradually expanded until, in 1910, Gurney's was publishing a large seed and nursery catalog with a full-color cover.

After C.W.'s death in 1913, his sons and nephew continued to run the seedhouse. When D.B. Gurney — one of the Colone's sons — announced, in the 1916 catalog, his election as president of the firm, he attributed his selection to "my extreme age, forty-seven years, and the abundance of gray hair, coming more thickly each year." In 1919, D.B. offered Gurney stock for sale to customers, listing inventory worth $500,000, possession of 600 thoroughbred Duroc hogs and 37 percent average earnings as sales incentive.

With D.B. in charge, the company diversified and grew rapidly. By 1924, the family-run business in Yankton had received orders from 46 of the 48 states, as well as five foreign countries.

D.B., as proprietor of a business that was developing into Yankton's leading industry, was an enthusiastic promoter of projects that would elevate Yankton's status as a trade center. One such endeavor was the Meridian Highway Bridge, a link in the 3,100 mile "Main Street of North America" planned to cover the distance from Mexico City to Winnipeg, Canada.

After several false starts in 1889 and 1899 which failed for lack of funding, the Meridian Highway Bridge Company of Yankton was founded in 1919, and D.B. was elected president of the fund-raising group. D.B. took a three-month leave of absence from his growing seed and nursery business to get the bridge effort off the ground. As the story goes, D.B. established arbitrarily, it seems — pledge quotas for Yankton's leading businessmen and called the group together one evening to reveal his investment plans for each of them. After some initial argument from the contributors involved, D.B. had $155,000 in pledges, including $25,000 from Gurney's, and bridge construction was under way.

D.B.'s three-month "vacation" from Gurney's turned into five years of arduous fund-raising, as the waters of the Missouri threatened the workers and construction dragged on. Finally, the double-deck bridge with a movable lift span was completed — at a cost of $1.3 million — and Mrs. D.B. Gurney drove the first car across the Meridian Highway Bridge on October 11, 1924, paying the first 50-cent toll.

The bridge complete, D.B. turned his attention back to promoting his seedhouse. Radio had come to Yankton in 1922, if only in a small way. A group of young men, including D.B.'s son, John Chandler Gurney, had set up sending equipment in a building in downtown Yankton. Programming was sporadic, reception often clouded with static, and no one really knew how many receivers existed; consequently, advertising support was scarce. Without money, Yankton's radio pioneers packed up their equipment to await a better time.

WNAX was on the air in 1915, and Chan Gurney's reputation as a talented announcer and programmer spread quickly. Meanwhile, D.B. began to notice the successful advertising efforts of his major competitor, Henry Field's Seed and Nursery Company, of Shenandoah, Iowa, broadcasting on station KRFN.

Chan was dispatched to Shenandoah to look over the KRFN set-up and returned home to recommend that his father purchase WNAX in Yankton. Thus, on February 28, 1927, listeners heard, "This is station WNAX, House of Gurney in Yankton."

The station was an overnight hit. After a brief period in D.B.'s home, the studio was moved to the third floor of the seedhouse. WNAX's live talent and folk commentary attracted thousands of listeners and sold millions of Gurney seeds and trees.

Many midwestern performers — most notably a young accordianist from Strasburg, North Dakota — got their start on WNAX. The accordianist went on to a phenomenal career as Lawrence Welk and his Champagne Music Makers, and his peers at WNAX enjoyed great popularity with audiences throughout the Midwest.

In a few short years, WNAX, "The Voice of the House of Gurney," became involved in a wide variety of activities, including promotion for a chain of WNAX Fair Price gas stations; the "Butter is in Our Hands" campaign formed to fight the "war against butter substitutes"; and broadcasting increasingly popular radio weddings. By the early 30s, the seedhouse building at 2nd and Capitol was one of the area's finest shopping centers, housing hairdressers and barbers, dry goods, groceries, jewelry and drugs, all available from Gurney's and being plugged by WNAX.

Chan Gurney left the seed and nursery business to start the WNAX Fair Price gas stations, selling a mixture of grain alcohol and gasoline now known as gasohol, as well as WNAX Fair Price tires and motor oils. Eventually Chan went on to the United States Senate by an appointment from President Truman to the Civil Aeronautics Board.

WNAX was sold to a Des Moines, Iowa, businessman in 1938, and the Gurney family concentrated their promotional efforts on direct mail marketing. A family-owned business for 76 years, Gurney's was sold to John Nicholson, then part owner of Henry Field's, in 1944. The Nicholson family maintained control of the company until its sale in 1965, to Dr. and Mrs. Gurney.

With Gurney's as his starting block, Hesse went on to develop American Garden Products, a diversified horticulture company. Hesse put together his group of American Garden Products companies to provide diverse product lines, packaging and geographic market, giving a national perspective to an industry that had generally been fragmented among small, specialized or regional companies.

In 1965, he was looking for a buyer, and a growth-oriented corporation called AMFAC was looking for a way to expand. The match was made; Gurney's and the other American Garden Products companies were purchased by the new corporation, a division of an agricultural group. After AMFAC purchased Henry Field's in 1963, Gurney's and Field's became the mail order business unit of AMFAC's nursery division. Later, the mail order nursery and garden supply segment from the nursery division and became a separate division — the AMFAC Mail-Order Division.

In June of 1968, an eight member investor group that included four Gurney executives purchased the division from AMFAC. Today, Gurney's direct marketing merchandising staff is responsible for creating and distributing over 17 million catalogs annually, featuring a product line of over 4,000 items. The headquarters of the corporation and all of its affiliates are located at the Gurney Seed and Nursery Company in Shenandoah, Iowa. 

By Pat V

HANNYS MEN WEL

Hannys Men's Wear was a Yankton neighborhood fixture from 1970 to 1980. Founded by and Rese (Gary) Hansenberger as a store for men and young men, it was located at 312 Douglas Street. Hannys moved to 118 West Third Street the time, Lenore (Mrs. Harold) Wend was the owner of the building. She and her husband operated the business for the life of the husband was paid to them on a percentage.

Dwyer was reared in Rochester, has, and has been a " resistor" of the art. He sold papers, magazines, shoes, of his last Rochester job was in his shoe store, also called Hennys Men's Wear, he sold radio advertising in Rochest, Marriott, and Joshua's Tobacco at Village, Minnesota, just prior to his Yankton for the purpose of starting t business.

In the 30 years of operation, Hannys fought the "turbulence" in his profession, he left his father's business, and that is B Brokers at the Mall and B & D Brokers at the Mall. The Hauusenbroers, two sons, Piet
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2 years, WNA, "The Voice
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of activities, including the mem-
chiral WNA stations; the
Better Club," an organization
fight with "the west";
and broadcasting increasingly
weddings. By the early 30s, the
building at 2nd and Capitol was
area's first shopping centers,
trippers and barbers, dry goods,
jewelry and drugs, all available
had been swallowed by WNA.
area left the WNA family —
start the WNA Fair Time gas
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The original gas company, The Ideal Acetylene Gas Company, was started in 1905 and built and operated its manufactured gas plant in the area of Seventh and Douglas. Manager of the company was E.M. McGee. The Company also had a branch office in Lincoln, Nebraska and Mr. Charles Briggs, of Yankton was in charge.

The company name was changed to Yankton Lighting & Heating Company later on in 1906, and construction started on 20,000 feet of main. Over forty men were employed at that time and the system was basically 2" bare steel with screwed fittings. The company opened its new office in what was then known as the Novotny building on Third Street. Business was conducted here for over forty years when the office was then moved to the location at 329 Broadway.

In 1906 controversy developed over foul and obnoxious smoke emitted by the manufactured gas plant at Seventh and Douglas. A petition by the people to the City Council in 1907 led to the construction in 1908 of a new modern gas plant at Second & Walnut, east of the present bridge approach. This new plant used what was called the Tenny gas machine process and it was expanded and in operation until 1938, when natural gas was introduced in Yankton.

During those years of growth, Charles Smith (owner of the Gurney Hotel, acquired ownership and the operation became known as the Yankton Gas Company. Smith later sold the Company to Federal Public Service of Chicago, who, in 1937, sold it to Sioux City Gas and Electric — the parent company of Dacotah, Yankton.

E.J. O'Brien was manager at that time and had developed the manufactured system to the point where it had expanded service as far north as Fifteenth Street between Douglas and Main.

It was with the sale of the system to Sioux City Gas & Electric that the franchised distribution of natural gas became a reality. The Northern Natural Gas System had covered 99.5% of the system and was based on 600 thousand pound line had been extended to Yankton. It was that year that the border station at 13th & Burleigh was constructed.

It was in that year of 1938 when Barney Hattman appeared in Yankton as Construction Suppl. This brought on another boom in construction with 100,000 feet of gas pipe laid in the next few years, this new system is still in service and construction. Because of the heavy construction during those years and the ones following, many men were required to pipe homes, clean up and convert equipment to meet the standards of natural gas. It was common in three years to have as many as one hundred men working on construction and customers’ conversion installations.

Major construction in those years from 1938 through the early 1940's included expanding the Yankton State Hospital, Sacred Heart Hospital and the Alcohol Plant in downtown Yankton. The extension to Gayville and the Border Station was built in 1941; the town distribution construction for Gayville and the same year was the complete conversion of customer installations also followed that year.

World War II had a disastrous effect on the gas business. All new construction ground to a halt in those years, and applications for gas were taken with few honored — and those only health or hardship cases. Natural gas, like many other products, was tightly controlled by the War Production Board. Soon after the war was over, controls were lifted and dramatic growth of the natural gas industry followed. So great was this growth across the country, that a multitude of problems in supply, distribution and rates developed. These problems triggered the formation of the Federal Power Commission who started regulation of the sales and distribution of natural gas. With the regulation also came the classification of interruptible and firm gas customers.

For Yankton the growth was given an extra boost with the start of construction of Gavins’ Point Dam, and the boom carried right on through the 1960’s.

By this time Northern Natural Gas Company had built a second transmission line (9") to Yankton to handle the growth; residential expansion had forced the relocation of the Border Station at 13th & Burleigh to a mile east on Old Highway 50 in 1965. Other system improvements since the war included tar-coated, malleable wrapped pipe and introduction of no-ode protection of our gas pipe systems. Probably the biggest changes for the customer was the development of the temperature compensated meter, which was available for outside installation in the early 1960’s. In an effort to control costs and improve service, plastic pipe was introduced to the industry about 1968, and with its many advantages it has almost completely replaced steel pipe for new construction.

The late 1960s and 70s introduced the common problems of the natural gas industry. The scramble was on to develop ways to compensate for the decreasing supplies. Various methods of storage of summer supplies were introduced, including construction of the 2360 ton peaking gas storage and peaking plants. Many improvements were made, and in 1973 L.P.S. installed its first completely automatic propylene peak-shaving plant in Yankton.

This plant set full capacity can produce up to 200 thousand cubic feet of natural gas equivalent fuel per hour. With it’s storage capacity of 240,000 gallons of propane, this plant can handle half of the city needs for a period of about 10 days. Total cost of this project was about a half million dollars.

The use of plastic mains and modern equipment has increased the overall efficiency of the company allowing a general reduction in manpower over the years. The distribution personnel service area goes well beyond the city limits of Yankton and includes Gayville and the De Hy plant area.

In the present manager, Bill Treiene, replaced long time manager Barney Hattman in 1979 and there are currently ten employees working out of the Yankton office.

by Bill Treiene

JACOB MAX MERCANTILE STORE

327 and 329 Broadway

When the Steamer "Frisia" arrived in New York harbor on July 16, 1873 from Hamburg, Germany, among first-class passengers who came from Russia were two brothers bearing the same name, Max, 50-year-old Eberhard and 44-year-old Jacob. With them were their mother, 72-year-old Christine (Hepper) Max, and their wives and children. Eberhard and his 50-year-old wife Christina (Wieland) Max were accompanied by his 22-year-old son Carl and his 20-year-old pregnant wife Sophia (Wentzlaff); Jacob, 25; Catherine, 18; John, 9; and Barbara, 8. With Jacob and his 38-year-old wife Barbara (Schwier) were their children Martin, 16; John, 15; Remmanna, 8; Emil, 7; Paulina, 2 and Charles, 11 months. Jacob, who had been a very successful furniture and carriage manufacturer and general retailer in the German colonies of Russia and whose wife had been a successful business woman there, came to America at the head of a group of 108 Russian-German families.

Their first destination was Omaha, Nebraska, but on their arrival there they were approached by a delegation of business men from Yankton, Dacotah Territory, who offered them enticing to move there. Jacob found it impossible to refuse the inducements offered and decided to continue into the new territory. He had with him funds from the sale of his businesses in Russia and decided to enter the retailing business in the capital of Dacotah, Yankton.

He set to work immediately with plans for a building; a notice in the August 12, 1873 Dakota Territorial Times stated that 3000 dollars was invested by a German immigrant for two lots on the corner of Broadway and Fourth Street across from the General Tripp house, on which very soon to be commenced work of building a 2360 feet brick building. The editor added: "For increasing the prosperity of this city and vicinity these immigrants best the railroad all to pieces." Shortly thereafter, on September 30, 1873 the same newspaper reported the notice that the brick block of Mr. Max on the corner of Broadway and 4th Street begins to take form quite a show. When complete it will both be creditable alike to the proprietors as well as to Broadway." By the following Jacob Jacob had gone east to purchase goods for his new store and on March 19, 1874 The Press and Dakota carried the following notice: "Mr. J. Max, one of the solid men of the Russian-German colony is now fully remarried in a general mercantile brick building 450 feet on Broadway. He was for many years a merchant of Oelosea, a city of 200,000 people. Half of the building is being filled up an an eating house and beer hall for the accommodation of the town customers and is leased by Mr. Satori." For the first few months after the store's completion the family occupied an apartment upstairs until their new brick house on Fifth and Line Streets be completed. They must have been in their new house by spring because 2 newspaper items tell of other uses for the secondary story space:

Press and Dakota, April 30, 1874: "The Russians have recently built their residence in the 2nd story of Mr. and Mrs. Max's building, but this week they have removed their benches and desk to Mr. Bender's."

Press and Dakota, May 14, 1874: "Dr. J.B. VanVoelter has taken rooms in the upper story at 329 Broadway where he has fitted up and may usually be found when no patients are present."

The interior of the Jacob Max Marcus of Jacob Max brick building corner Broadway where he has fitted up and may usually be found when no patients are present. He is impelled to do this not only by the need of the city and county physician but needs of his practice."

The original store, on the south side of 4th and Broadway was a long two story building, two stories high, stucco wall of upright logs which was late by an eight foot high brick wall. A side of the wall was all a long string sheds, big enough to hold 50 or 60 a holiday like the Fourth of July, a circus came to town, there were wagons than the big sheds could

First Jacob Max Mercantile store, C Territory.
The interior of the Jacob Max Mercantile store, around the late 1800s.

date, and the store was crowded to capacity. One such memorable occasion was when the South Dakota land drawings were held in front of the store.

By September of 1877, less than four years after Jacob's arrival on these shores, the newspapers carried such items as "Jacob Max has recently returned from the eastern markets where he has been to purchase supplies for his mercantile house, already one of the leading establishments in Dakota. Max occupies two large store rooms in his block on Broadway and Fourth and has every facility for buying and selling that any first class house enjoys." By that fall an ad appeared stating that $15,000 worth of dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, etc. had just been received at Max's "mammoth store". Very often over the next few years the newspaper carried notices that Mr. and Mrs. Max, often accompanied by their son John, travelled to Chicago, "to purchase a heavy stock of goods".

It is said that Jacob, a very genial, energetic and kindly man, was busy from morning until evening bustling about the store, but that he was never too busy to stop at the cash register for a friendly word with the customers.

One section of the store was for groceries, the next for shoes, and the third was Barbara's domain — dry goods, notions and ladies' ready to wear. She had owned a successful luxury boutique in Russia, making expensive embroidered lingerie and bead-work on fine clothing for royalty and other wealthy clients. She continued her concern for the high fashion market through her husband's frontier store. Italian women were often employed in her Yankton home to do embroidery or bead-work on fancy coats and dresses. On buying trips to Chicago with her husband she always spent a day at Marshall Field's making sketches of the dresses they were showing. Only once she was known to have been unprepared for Yankton's social season. That was in the late winter of 1873 when a grand ball was given for General George Armstrong Custer and his command. Barbara had only a few pairs of long white gloves to sell, but Pamela's Department Store was able to get a new supply and sold dozens of pairs.

The store continued to grow and to thrive and in 1881 another large addition was made to the store to accommodate the boot and shoe department. In 1882 Mr. Max was among those signing up for telephone service and in the same year, Max and his partner, Jacob's brother, in 1879, was added to Jacob and Henry Hail's list of customers for their general merchandise firm "Max and Hail."

In August of 1883 he added a brick storehouse to the building next to his store and the newspaper said "Jacob Max is building an extensive addition, doubling the size of his mammoth store building to accommodate his rapidly increasing trade" and the next week stated "E.M. Coates has just put in place a couple of plate glass fronts in Max's Mammoth establishment, the entire job being a success." That same fall he had $2000 worth of goods at an exhibition at the fair grounds, which had to be carefully guarded by day and by night.

In the fall of that prosperous year the Oct. 19, Press and Dakota stated: "Jacob Max has filled his new store from floor to ceiling a choice collection of dry goods and articles of ladies apparel. He now has three storerooms containing an immense amount of all descriptions of goods. The Max establishment has been growing year by year until now it rivals the largest mercantile houses in the west and is doing a large business. The proprietor claims it is necessary to increase his facilities this summer which he has done by building an additional store front on Broadway and connected with his former extensive establishment. The whole gives him ample room for the present, but of the prospects are that he will be compelled to again enlarge his capacity. This is one of the solid institutions of Yankton and would be a credit to any city."

In 1884 when Yankton established a city water system, the Max store was connected to that service.

Most of the merchandise for the store was

First Jacob Max Mercantile store, C 1874, Southwest corner of 4th and Broadway, Yankton Dakota Territory.

Photograph of the interior of Jacob Max's Mercantile Store, Yankton Dakota Territory, c. 1874.
brought in by the small steamboats which made regular trips up the Missouri River as far as Pierre. Much of Yankton's shipping was by water as this form of transportation was cheaper than the railroads. The railroads did a thriving business, though, especially in passenger traffic. From 1875 when gold was discovered in the Black Hills, until 1890 when homestead lands had all been claimed, Yankton was often bustling at the seams with people coming into Dakota Territory.

As the 19th century drew to a close and grasshopper plagues and drought took their toll, Jacob and Barbara May, failing in health and suffering the effects of too-generous extension of credit to fellow Germans, found it expedient to turn over the management of their family business to their son, John, who continued to operate successfully for many years.

Jacob and Barbara moved to California with their youngest son, Will and daughter, Paulina. Jacob died there in 1906 and Barbara in 1908.

by Isabel R. Sattler

KAISER HEATING & COOLING INC.

B26

On May 1, 1944, Kaiser Heating & Sheet Metal was established at 1101 West 9th St., one of the first businesses in West Yankton. The company was founded by Richard J. Kaiser with the assistance of his wife Idella Kendall Kaiser. Mr. Kaiser had returned to Yankton from Minneapolis, Minnesota, where he had been a service engineer for the General Electric Company for the entire country.

This business sold and serviced residential and commercial General Electric furnaces and air conditioners, and also sold sheet metal products and did custom sheet metal work. In 1961 the company expanded to include the sale of Skelgas, but was discontinued in 1965.

Kaiser Heating & Sheet Metal started in a 42'4" building. In 1955 a 33'7" and a 22'6" addition was built. In 1960, two adjacent buildings 25'7" each were added. In 1961, a steel warehouse 96'60" was added, and in 1963 another steel warehouse 108'60". In 1983, a 16'60" warehouse and loading area was added.

On August 14, 1957, a fire which started in an adjacent building rented to Yankton Public Opinion, partially destroyed the Kaiser business and forced the Yankton Public Opinion to discontinue business.

The building has been continuously family owned and operated. In 1965, the name was changed to Kaiser Heating & Cooling, Inc. with Richard J. Kaiser as President; Dan R. Kaiser as Vice President; and Idella Kaiser as Secretary/Treasurer.

The business began with one employee and has since employed up to eight employees. The building has grown from 1932 square feet to the present size of 10,000 square feet.

In 1964, Richard J. Kaiser was named a Monogram dealer by the General Electric Company, which is a sales, service and engineering award. He was the second dealer in the United States to be so honored. The company has received this award each year since that time.

In 1981, when Richard retired, the corporation was sold to Dan R. Kaiser and his wife Barbara. At that time Dan R. Kaiser was selected as President and Susan C. Kaiser became Secretary/Treasurer.

In 1984, the business expanded to include a "Do-It-Yourself" store. The electrical, plumbing, heating and recreational services are housed in an adjacent building and the business is known as Handi-Man Supply.

by Idella Kaiser

KEATING CREAMERY COMPANY

B27

"Keating Butter - made in limited quantities for those who desire the very best!"

Keating Creamery Company was founded in 1913 by two brothers who came to Yankton from Sioux Falls, John L. and Frank Keating. John moved to Yankton first and hired and trained a buttermaker by the name of Bruce Wallace. John moved to Yankton soon afterwards to manage the office. All through their years in business, Frank managed the plant and John took care of the office and selling.

John was unable to find housing for his family for some time so his wife and children stayed in Sioux Falls. John took the train back to Sioux Falls weekends until his family was able to join him here. Each night John called his wife in Sioux Falls and she gave him the butter orders she had solicited from the various grocery stores. John shipped the butter by train daily and his wife had a young boy with a wagon make the deliveries for her.

This set a pattern for their butter sales as all through their years in business they shipped butter out of Yankton. The bulk of their butter was sold to big companies in Chicago and in the East. As a result of this, John was appointed to the National Dairy Board in the '30's.

The first location of the Keating Creamery was in a building on the southwest corner of Broadway and Fourth which they rented from Jim Floyd. A few years later they moved to the power unit building of the Schwenk Brewery on the Northeast corner of Second and Walnut. The name "Keating" was painted on the tall smokestack and remained there many years after Keating Creamery moved to their final location at 308 Douglas Ave. They did this after purchasing the Sanitary Dairy and going into the pasteurization of milk and offering a full line of dairy products. The daily routes of the residential deliveries initially were made by wagons drawn by mules. The two route men for almost as many years as deliveries were made door-to-door were Bill Phillips and Tony Pestic. Other long-time Keating employees were Pete Royen, "Garnett" Smith, Johnnie Pipper, John Smith, John Buehmann, and Hans Olson.

-One of the big customers of Keating's through the years was Binder Bros., who purchased the butterfat needed in making ice cream in the form of sweet cream butter. John always contended he couldn't afford to make ice cream himself as he would eat it all.

Harry Drier, a buttermaker who worked for the Keating Creamery, later brought out another creamery in Yankton. He remained a friend of John's through the years. They often met for lunchings in the area together. During the hard winter of 1938 there was so much snow that the roads were blocked and farmers couldn't get their milk to town. The last quart of milk in town was sold to Mrs. Francis (Ruth) Donodos on a Sunday morning after church for her young babies. John and Harry got together, obtained a permit to use an engine with a snowplow and an engineer. After their milk producers who lived train tracks to get them to town as close as they could, the two out to buck the snow. (They really later that day with milk to market. For a short time when the early '30's, the creamery leased instead of milk to pay the farm instead of milk to pay the farm. This script could be The local grocery stores on the creamery would redeem them. During World War II, black market John more than once, at obtained butter illegally for rea required ration coupons.) One drove up to the creamery in a car (Cars during the war were not their production all went to to tell John that if John would sell the new car out in front of there for him as a bonus. The next time a black mark man up, John was ready. He suggested return in a few days and a details with his son, Austin. In he and Austin arranged for a "man" to record the conversation room. This incident resulted in it tried in court, and although the written what seemed like an inadequate result was that John was no approached by black marketers.

After the war, people were butter. You no longer needed rat get it, but production in no v to keep up with the demand. Son was being made and creamery and orders for butter came in the U.S. The butter was sold in a price set by the OPA (Office Administration). For a few more such a paperweight (as more butter b able), that the paperwork was around the dining-room table a home by John's wife, Patricia, to his son, Leon. Many years later, they milk and cream products which dollars which the creamery has especially for this purpose. It's businesses in town were paid in by farmer customers, who paid the for of farm a something perhaps forgotten in 1942. Austin and his the "Dottie" Crowe Keating, co- m one customer after another the late '50's at which time the making ice cream they were making and the creamery and the Dairy M business was sold to Well's Bb 1963.

John died on March 9, 1963 as he had operated an independent ice cream company in Yankton. Keating Creamery was largest independent creamery in its day. Thus both John and Frank dead before the "glory days making were over. If
snowplow and an engineer. After calling some of their milk producers who lived close to the train tracks to get them to bring their milk as close as they could, the two competitors set out to buck the snow. (They returned safely later that day with milk to spare.)

For a short time when the banks closed in the early '30s, the creamery issued "script" money to pay the farmers for their milk. This script could be spent like money at the local grocery stores and then the creamery would redeem them.

During World War II, black marketers visited John more than once, attempting to obtain butter illegally for resale. (Butter required ration coupons.) One time a man drove up to the creamery in a big new car. (Cars during the war were not available as their production all went to war needs.) He told John that if John would sell him the butter, the new car out in front would be left there for him as a bonus.

The next time a black marketer showed up, John was ready. He suggested that the man return in a few days and work out the details with his son, Austin. In the meantime, he and Austin arranged for a "government man" to record the conversation in the next room. This incident resulted in the man being tried in court, and although the man received what seemed like an inadequate fine, the end result was that John was no longer approached by black marketers.

After the war, people were starved for butter. You no longer needed ration coupons to get it, but production in no way was able to keep up with the demand. Somehow, some way, people got the name of Kendall Creamery and orders for butter came in from all over the U.S. The butter was sold in 20 lb. lots at a price set by the OPA (Office of Price Administration). For a few months this was such a big operation, requiring so much paperwork (until more butter became available), that the paperwork was all handled around the dining-room table at the family home by John's wife, Patricia, and his family.

For many years Kendall Creamery paid their milk and cream producers in silver dollars which the creamery had shipped in especially for this purpose. When other businesses in town were paid in silver dollars by farmer customers, they were reminded of the independence of farm town — something perhaps forgotten in later years.

John's son, Austin, was one of the creamery managers for several months before Frank died in 1942. Austin and his wife, Florence "Dottie" Crowe Kendall, continued to operate the business after John's death. They opened a retail outlet called the Dairy Mart in the late '50s at which time they also began making ice cream. They continued to operate the creamery and the Dairy Mart until the business was sold to Well's Blue Bunny in 1975.

John died on March 9, 1953 at which time he had operated an independent creamery longer (46 years) than anyone else in South Dakota. Kendall Creamery was also the largest independent creamery in the state in its day. The two John and Frank were both dead before the "golden days" of butter making were over.

by Ann Lemon

KENDALL BROTHERS
BLACKSMITH

W.C. (Bill) Kendall and George J. Kendall, who were brothers, started their blacksmithing career at an early age. Bill started at Hanson, South Dakota, under the name of Kendall and Shallies. At this time, when weather permitted, he rode his bicycle from his home in Yankton to his work, approximately 20 miles. Hanson was located north of Yankton — near the Midway area. He later moved his business to Yankton in 1919 under the name of Kendall Brothers. The premises was located on the west side of the street between 2nd and 3rd on Douglas Avenue.

Welding in 1919 was done exclusively by forge, the practice that was on the top of the list of the "Arts" of that trade. Bill and George were pros — they could shoe a horse, sharpen plowshares, build wagon wheels, shrunk a rim to fit that wheel or weld a break by the use of forge welding with the precision of a fine jeweler. They had much pride in their accomplishments. Plowshares were of little help if they were not sharp enough to cut through the ground.

A few years after opening their own business, they built a new larger brick building on the east side of Douglas Avenue, now known as Modern Body Shop. A sign was erected announcing to the farmers in the community that they would be doing General Blacksmithing - Wood Working - Truck Body Building - Acetylene Welding and General Machine Work. Ten years later the building was added on to accommodate the Massey Harris Farm Implement contract.

The first 4 Wheel Drive general purpose tractor was sold along with the certified Walls series and full line of complementary farm implements.

During the World War II, the first self-propelled combines were sold by Bill. After the war many people could not obtain machinery and repair parts they needed, back to the old standpoint, the Blacksmith Kendall Brothers. In 1946 Bill's oldest son, Charles entered the business and soon after his second son, Kenneth participated. In 1957 Massey Harris purchased the Ferguson line and the company name was changed to Massey-Ferguson. In 1949 George J. Kendall passed away and in July 1962, Wm. (Bill) Kendall passed away. Bill left a wife, Mabel, his two sons and a daughter, Idella, Mrs. Richard Kaiser.

In 1962 the business was moved to 1005 Broadway and later became known as Kendall Implement. Because of ill health reasons, Charles disposed of the business in 1975.

by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kendall

KENNETH SCHNEIDER — INSURANCE

The first 4 wheel drive General Purpose tractor sold in 1959 by Bill Kendall.

On May 11, 1909 I began my career in the

by Anna Leman

Kendall Brothers Blacksmith. George and W.C. (Bill) Kendall.
not only the admission of its peers, a reputation of unexcelled professional workmanship and service along
gratitude of the people who call there for their loved ones.

by Laddie F

KQHU-FM RAD

KQHU-FM Radio went on the air in Yankton, South Dakota in August, Bruce Kreuse (air name Jack B. Munning), the original owners of K were Dr. Willis F. Stanage, Ron F. Bruce Kreuse. The music format at KQHU-FM was "beautiful music". In 1975, the station moved to Minneapolis and Dr. St. Ron Hueser became partners in the station. In 1977, Ron Hueser moved to Cali from then to the present, Dr. WJ has been the majority stockholder. There are four other stockholders holding ownership. They are Ron, Ken, Harold, and John. The studios of KQHU-FM were located at the Kochelli Complex Highway 81. At the time the studio was closed, KQHU moved their studio to a separate building at 10 West 212. They moved in September 1980.

On July 4, 1975, the music format from "beautiful music" to "country rock" or "adult contemporary". The change is still used at the present time.

The number of employees at the station were staffed from eight in 1975 to fit 10 employees. When KQHU became in the fall of 1975, it also increased to 24 hours a day. Prior to that time, the station was on air from 1 AM and on again at 6 AM affiliated with the CBS Network and carried the "Ann 40" program with Casey Kasem afternoons from 2-6 PM.

I.J. LARSO! ELECTRIC SER

The first building of the I.J. Larson Company was just east of the I Bridge approach at 108 South Wa 1921.
me in Tabor was taken over by Kostel and Laddie R. Kostel. This dissolved when Charles started Funeral Home in Wagner, leaving Laddie to continue as sole rural home at Tabor.

Long before a third generation entered the picture. After David of Laddie R. Kostel, graduated from Washington College of Mortuary Science, at all of the Kostel Funeral homes, David was employed in an Iowa funeral home, and then in the Kabeisman - Nelson Funeral in Yankton, South Dakota. In 1968 he joined a firm in that state and the Kabeisman - Nelson Kostel firm move to Ames to be a partner in that firm. In 1973, the Kabeisman - Nelson Kostel firm merged into one corporation. The name of the firm was renamed Kostel - McLeod.

Laddie R. Kostel, another son of Kostel, who graduated from the University of Minnesota, served as a chaplain in an Iowa City College, remaining with the Kostel Funeral Home in Yankton. Laddie McLeod left the firm, and it was handled only as the Kostel firm. This firm as one corporation moved the funeral homes in Yankton and less than a year after the funeral occurred he had professional work to leave the Kostel Funeral Home in Yankton during the past few years. He married a very nice woman by 1984. By 1990 they had many of the general public. He was able to arrange for funeral services of actual need. Inasmuch as a program to the people was obvious, for such funeral pre-arrangements, Funeral Home has installed his system and other needed modern equipment. This all, of course, also needed additional capable staff. Kostel followed the firm, and the services of her brother Laddie of the funeral of Kostel, father of Laddie R. Kostel, to be pre-need program. As needs in the state are to have additional help in all of the work of the Funeral Home erected a totally new in Yankton in 1978. Through services the Kostels knew what comfortable. Using this knowledge was designed all on one entrance, with private family rooms for families and rooms, and a 24-hour service. The service was managed by West Street Funeral Home approach to 108 South Walnut Street. C.

Laddie R. Kostel

KQHU-FM RADIO

KQHU-FM Radio went on the air in Yankton, South Dakota in August 1973 with Bruce Krause (air-name Jack Bruce) announcing. The original owners of KQHU-FM were Dr. Willis F. Stanage, Ron Hower, and Bruce Krause. The music format at that time was "beautiful music". In 1973 Bruce Krause moved to Minneapolis and Dr. Stanage and Ron Hower became partners in the venture. In 1977, Ron Hower moved to California and from then to the present, Dr. W.F. Stanage has been the majority stockholder in KQHU. There are other stockholders with varying ownership. They are Robert Litko, Ken Jones, Harold Tabor, and John Stanage.

The studios of KQHU-FM were originally located at the Kochi Complex on North Highway 81. At the time the Kochi was closed, KQHU moved their studios to their present location at 904 West 23rd Street. They moved in September 1986.

On July 4, 1973, the music format changed from "beautiful music" to "contemporary rock" or "adult contemporary". This format is still used at the present time. KQHU used the logo "Super Q" from the fall of 1973 until November of 1977 at which time the logo "QFM" started. KQHU has been QFM since that time although many people still refer to it as "Super Q".

The number of employees at KQHU has grown from eight in 1975 to fifteen today. This includes both full-time and part-time employees. When KQHU became "Super Q" in the fall of 1975, it also started broadcasting 24 hours a day. Prior to that time, it signed off at 1 AM and on again at 6 AM. KQHU is affiliated with the ABC Contemporary Radio Network and also carries the "American Top 40" program with Casey Kasem on Sunday afternoons from 2-6 PM.

L.J. LARSON ELECTRIC SERVICE

The first building of the L.J. Larson Electric Service, was located just east of the Missouri River Bridge approach at 108 South Walnut Street. C.

In his new building on 220 Capitol, a complete line of Delco products.

The Yorkton Chamber of Commerce board members. L-R: Charles Richardson, was Novotny, Mayor Ernest Crockett, Art Hitchman, and L.J. Larson taken on May 2, 1953.

At the age of nineteen Louise Larson started the L.J. Larson Electric Service in 1920. The business was in the building just east of the Missouri River Bridge approach, at 108 South Walnut Street. At the time, he worked primarily, on the repair of Magnatons, which were used on some automobiles, as well as on all tractiors. He also did carburetor repairing as well as repair work on engines, and automobiles. By 1925 he had learned a little about the effects of the recession that developed as a result of the boom during and after World War I. Steelers dropped from $300.00 a piece to $40.00 in the course of a year, and corn dropped to twenty cents per bushel. The economics were pretty badly upset, but it was taken in stride.

In 1922 he had learned that he definitely needed some technical schooling. Louise attended an Automotive Trade School during the winter of 1923 for three months. He also attended the trade school in the winter of 1924. The year 1924 was a very dry year in this area, and business was rough but by 1926, all the businesses seemed to be in an upswing. Up to that time Louise had paid very little attention to anything except the job of doing a respectable job of running his business. However, as time went on he gradually became interested in civic and public affairs. The Bridge celebration in 1924 was the first big promotion that he recalls. He had very little to do with that except that he was the second car to cross the new bridge. He was all set to be the first, but when the torch went off Chan Gurney drove thru the barrier, and he followed in the number two spot.

By 1930 his business was growing, and he had two men working for him, Harold Hicks, and Sanford Trung. Larson Electric Service became Delco Light Dealers in 1938 and during the next ten years they installed over three hundred light plants on farms in this area. When came along it was the first year that the severe drought really took a hold. The business dropped seventy-five percent, and he had to let the two men go, which was the most difficult thing that he had ever done.

In 1930 they moved into a new building on 220 Capitol Street. There were two finished apartments on the second floor which was rented out to tenants.

He ended up owing enough bills in 1932 that he had to sell his car and some of his furniture, and move into one of the apartments, where he lived for 18 years. The Diamond Jubilee was celebrated in 1936. From 1936 to 1941 was probably the years that were the easiest to make a living and also still have time for diversion. It was the period that you could give value received and also received reasonable pay for your services. Costs of operation were in line and the cost of the welfare program had not really caught up with us. World War II came and from December 1941 until the war was over in 1945, we lived through a period of economi cal upheaval that made a good many people right, and many others very sad. Louise ended up alone in the shop for a short time, and even had to close the shop for three days in order to serve on a federal jury. He did not take advantage of the opportunities that were present to make money on account of the war, and he admitted that he did not have a kindly
attitude toward the war prosperity. Louie married Beulah Hazen in June 1942. They have two children, Lois and Les.

After the war in 1946, he carried out the plan that he had ready in 1941, to build on to his building, and although material was scarce he was able to put together a good building and the cost was not too bad.

Since that time he has taken part in public and civic affairs from 1948 to 1955. Also he served on the Board of Directors or the Chamber of Commerce for three years.

Although he did not have much materially to show for those forty years in business, he had a great deal to be grateful for. He always liked and enjoyed his work. The man that worked for him was capable, and trustworthy. Without them it would not have been possible to have the privileges to do many of the things that he liked to do.

In 1936 Louie organized the Yankton Hayshakers, and the members of this group have meant a lot to him. The fellows have taken part in many promotions, conventions, P.T.A. meetings, and they have played in many places that they were not doubt stretching their luck a bit.

In 1964 Louie suffered a heart attack. In 1965 he sold the business to Max Young, one of his long time employees. Now the business is called Young Yankton, Inc., being operated by Tom Young, the son of Max.


by Mrs. I.J. Larson

THE LARSON BROTHERS, INC.

One hot, dusty day in August of 1929, Charles W. Larson, his wife, Madeline, three sons, one daughter, his aged father and his younger brother, Emil, left Pipestone, Minnesota, and moved to Yankton, South Dakota to open a "Tin Shop" in the town that they felt had the best future prospects of any town in the Midwest.

Charles W. Larson, better known as "Charley" by his friends, had long dreamed of owning a business of his own, so that he could teach his three sons a trade and give them a better start in life. His brother, Emil, was also very much interested in his three nephew's future, and, as a result, sold his share in a prosperous, growing concrete block plant at Le Sueur, Minnesota, and entered the partnership with his older brother. This was the start of the "Larson Brothers" business in Yankton, then located at 320 Douglas Avenue.

A "Tin Shop" in those days, as now, had to be able to make and repair anything and everything, that could be made, or repaired, out of flat sheets of metal. Warm air heating in 1929 was practically 100% coal-fired and of the gravity type that usually filled the basement with huge pipes running in all directions.

Emil died in 1933, but the business that he had helped establish continued on in a building at 112 East Third Street. Charles decided to keep the same name for the business, and, now having two sons, looked up and working in the shop after school, on Saturdays and during summer vacations. He knew that soon the name "Larson Brothers" would again be appropriate.

Maynard graduated from high school in 1933 and devoted his full time to the business of becoming the best sheet metal worker and heating expert possible. Two years later, Maynard graduated from high school and thereupon applied himself to building up the sales volume through vigorous advertising and sales campaigns. By this time the shop was located at 209 East Third Street. Forced air furnaces were beginning to replace the gravity furnaces of yesteryear and natural gas, as a fuel, was beginning to replace coal and oil in Yankton as well as in some nearby towns. Also, summer cooling for residences was in its very first stage of development.

Phyllis, the only daughter, decided to leave a "man's business" to the men of the family. As a consequence, the attention of Yankton High, she became Mrs. Art McKee. In 1940, Charles Jr., graduated from high school and took over the full-time management of the office portion of the business.

During World War II, Maynard served in the Army, leaving Yankton in the summer of 1942. Charles, Jr., signed up for Naval Aviator's training in September of the same year. Three years later, and thousands of miles apart, both were released to inactive duty by their respective services on the same day, November 18, 1945.

During his service in the army, Maynard had come into contact with Ready-Mixed concrete plants at various Army camps and had decided that he would like to enter this type of business. The month of December 1945, was spent in getting acclimated to civilian life again. Then, on January 1, 1946, Maynard sold his interest in Larson Brothers to his father and two brothers. He immediately started working vigorously so that he might have a Ready-Mixed concrete plant in operation when the spring construction season opened in Yankton.

While Maynard was constructing his plant, Charlie, Max and Charles were drawing plans for a new shop, office building and warehouse that they would erect at 201 Capitol Street as soon as the frost was out of the ground. All of their plans materialized and Maynard's first Ready-Mixed concrete plant was used in the construction of the building erected by his father and two brothers.

In December of 1950, Charlie, "Dad" to all of us, passed leaving his family and close friends a rich heritage of his beliefs in the true value of family, friends, independence, initiative and hard work.

The same year that the first generation of "Larson Brothers" came to Yankton, the second generation was beginning. Max's oldest son, Doug, was taking to his fathers footsteps. He, too, would work after school and was learning the trade.

After graduation from high school, Doug went to South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in Rapid City, South Dakota. In 1964 he graduated with a Mechanical Engineering Degree. While in college he married Judy Holbrook, and upon graduation they came back to Yankton to work at Larson Brothers.

In 1967 Doug and Judy decided to embark on new horizons. That spring they moved to San Diego, California, where Doug was hired as an engineer with University Engineering and Mechanical Contractors. Doug's future was not there, and fate was moving to return Doug and Judy to Yankton.

In 1969, Dale Electronics was looking for an engineer for their operation, and the pneumonia that was being asked Doug into moving back to Yankton to work for Dale's. Doug worked on various items like bomb fuses and many other projects, but he knew this type of business was not for him.

After a year at Dale's, Doug decided to return to San Diego to his old job, again fate made its move, Charles Jr. Doug and told him that he wanted to come from Larson Brothers, and that he would take his part of the business to Doug. Doug and Judy jumped up at the offer and on April 1, 1970 the third generation in Larson Brothers.

Up to this point Larson Brothers had mostly residential work with some commercial conditioning. Yankton was growing as a need for a commercial heating conditioning contractor in town. Doug added additional commercial jobs, type of business gradually more residental to commercial work.

At that point in time Max's young was in the U.S. Coast Guard, and Barrett returned to enter Larson and once again the company's need was fulfilled.

Barrett worked in the heating conditioning business, but he wanted to expand it to become a business in conjunction with heating and air conditioning business front of the shop was remodeled to a showroom, but the building was built to serve this purpose and now the building can be used a showroom too. The whole business was expanded to include the showroom, and in 1977 once again Larson Brothers took over the move. Max and Doug found a new location at 900 East Fourth Street, a new facility for Larson Brothers. In 1977 Larson Brothers was split separate businesses. The Yankton Center, and Larson Brothers heat conditioning.

In December 1978 Max officially retired from Larson Brothers, but he still active in both of his businesses.

Today Larson Brothers is a third generation business, but the first two generations are still very much involved in the business. The hopes, ideas and work is for the future generations two sons, Scott and Jake.

by Doug

LIVE STOCK ST. BANK

The Live Stock State Bank of Yankton was granted a bank - October 31, 1930, by the State Department of South Dakota. The Capital was $25,000.00 Common Stock at $5,000.00 Surplus. In the early 30's was slow with reaching $88,014.00 at the end of $147,670.00 at the end of 1940.

On March 1, 1948 Boyd R. Hop to Artisian as assistant manager, previously employed as the Bank of South Dakota. Hopp toOrd Cashier and Manager in 1949. The change of the bank changed hands on Ma with L.A. Hollenbeck of Sioux Falls, South Dakota purchasing controlling interest in the bank was retained as Cashier, age of the bank until 1961 who chose controlling interest from Hollenbeck Estate and was elected at that time.

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On November 17, 1962 the Letcher Branch "A" office of the bank was opened. In 1972 the branch was changed to a full service branch. On October 1, 1973, the Mount Vernon Branch was opened. On May 23, 1975, the South Dakota Banking Commission granted permission for the Live Stock State Bank to move its Charter to Mitchell, South Dakota and leave a branch bank at Artisan. This decision was appealed by the Commercial & Savings Bank of Mitchell, and the Commission's decision was overruled by the Sixth Circuit Court. The Hopkins family then took this case to the South Dakota Supreme Court and they overturned the Sixth Circuit Court decision and on December 17, 1977, the Main Office of the Live Stock State Bank was moved to Mitchell. At that time the total assets of the bank was $10,409,000.00.

On November 30, 1984, the bank purchased the assets of the Yankton, Vermillion, Gypville, and 1/sor branches from the United National BAnk of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. This brought the total assets up to in excess of $70,000,000.00.

The banking philosophy of the Hopkins family has been to give banking services to communities that have the need. We are proud to be a part of Yankton County and the surrounding areas and look forward to many wonderful years in your community.

by Boyd B. Hopkins, Chairman

MICHAEL FANSLOW AND SONS

Michael Fanslow was born in Bromberg, Germany on September 29, 1873, where he was trained to be a miller and blacksmith. His wife, Bridgetta, was from Marean Wenda, Germany; her birth date was September 8, 1828. One year after their marriage, they came to the United States, arriving in New York in 1868. They lived in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, where their sons August, Frank, and John were born. Two of these sons were an integral part of the Fanslow business history.

Michael, having invested in a flour mill and blacksmith shop in Wisconsin, became interested in business opportunities available with westward emigration. In 1878, the family moved to Milltown Dakota Territory, Hutchinson County, where Michael established a blacksmith shop and mill, joined by sons Frank and John S. The year 1890 found the family business taking shape in Yankton after buying a mill on Broadway and 13th Street. The gist mill, whose grinding stones are now at the entrance to the Dakota Territorial Museum, was known for its great sweeping wings. An oil painting and later photograph are also in the museum. In 1894, the firm Michael Fanslow and Sons was established with the purchase of a blacksmith shop on 4th Street between Broadway and Linn. The grist mill fell into gradual disuse, although Michael maintained his residence near it on Broadway. Frank and John built homes at 311 and 102 Linn Street. The new firm originally had a flour and feed business in connection with the blacksmithing work. In 1897, an iron veneered machinery warehouse, two stories high, was built on the east side of the shop.

Bridgetta died on August 5, 1904. Six of her 13 children survived her, five of whom lived in Yankton. Michael died shortly after his wife, on September 30, 1904, one day after his...
Mike and Irene Imig with Lawrence at Mitchell Corn Palace.

"Mike's Candies".

It was during this same period when he came to Yankton.

WAX Radio for two programs.

Lawrence had developed a pro.

Lawrence Wels’s Honolulu Fr.

Gum. Dad and I took on the

distributed it in three states.

To the good seller in the Black Hills area and,

eastern South Dakota. Business

but money was very tight.

It was during this period and

and Irene, the best in town.

A Wurlitzer show cost

help in running their business.

The Star Hotel in Menno, South

headed for Menno to work. We

were like a second mother and

The hotel housed a lounge called

"The Room". Here was a Wurlitzer

entertainment. It

operated by a juke box.

That juke belonged to George

Yankton. I got hold of George at

he had a coin machine route
to sell. With financial help from

uncle, I bought my first route.

I had just gotten started when

Uncle Sam called and I was

the Army. My wife, Irene, our

Dona, and I moved to Kentu

served with the armed forces.

The coin machine route was

my dad (who was the greatest)

helper, Helmut Jungman. He

took over the route and I am

both of them for their

kept the business going while

Army.

Upon my discharge from

returned to South Dakota. It

was happening after the war

box and record industry was a

The first juke held 10 so

the 7 inch size and played

The cost of playing a song to

was 5. That cost increased the

to 10 per play and later to 35.

There soon appeared the

record. The cost of a 45 was

November, 1950, was 18 from

I was buying from. A juke box

at $475.00 when I first started

45 records now cost in ex

and juke boxes cost

$6,000.00.

I had several 11015 model W

boxes that played the 78 rpm

introduction of the 45 rpm which

Wurlitzers virtually also

Sisted birthday.

Upon their father’s death, John and Frank

became partners in Fanskow Brothers. The

floor and feed business was discontinued and

the firm handled farm machinery and equip-

ment and did a brisk general blacksmithing

business.

John married Elizabeth Milbier on No-

vember 13, 1886. Four children were born:

one died in infancy, and a son, Fred, drowned

at age 8 in the Missouri. Two sons lived in

Yankton, John Robert, and Willard.

John Fanskow was a member of the Yank-

ton County Board of Commissioners almost

continuously for 41 years. He was active in

Democratic Party politics, serving as delegate

to the state convention for many years. John

also served on various civic boards and acted

as a volunteer fireman. He died on May 8,

1933. His son, John R., operated the

blacksmith shop until 1947 when it was sold.

John R. died in 1953. His survivors include

daughters Cheopea Gutschmidt (Mrs. Nor-

bert) and sons Gregory and Nicholas from

Northbrook, Illinois, and Eileen Fanskow from

Burlington, Wisconsin.

Willard died in 1975 after being employed

at the Yankton Post Office for 36 years, retiring

in 1965 as Foreman of the Mails. His

wife, Louise, continues to live in the original

John Fanskow home at 102 Linn. His daugh-

ter, Elizabeth, resides in Yankton with

husband Jerome Kostel and daughters, Lisa

and Paula.

Frank Fanskow married Romice Gray on

Nov. 1, 1956. Frank was mayor of Yankton

for four terms. He also served on the Board

of Aldermen; during his tenure, the Carnegie

Library and County Court House buildings

were built. Frank died on April 23, 1988.

There were five children, three of whom

remained in Yankton: Geneva Williams,

Clarence, and F.E. (Bob). Clarence also was

associated with the blacksmith shop until its

sale. He died in 1961. Survivors of the Frank

Fanskow family include grandchildren James and

four children, St. Paul, Minnesota, Donald of

Chicago, Illinois, and Robert with four

children of Kingsport, Tennessee.

August Fanskow died on Feb. 21, 1996.

Although not associated with the family

blacksmith shop, he had an illustrious career

as a stonemason for 36 years at the State

Hospital for the Insane (now Human Services

Center). He was in charge of the crew who

constructed the marble staircase in the now

vacant Meade Building.

by Elizabeth Fanskow Kostel

MIKE IMIG JUKE BOX

CO.

B37

"If It Operates With a Coin, Mike Has It"

52 Years of Juke Box and Coin

Machines in Yankton, South

Dakota

After graduating from Yankton High

School and attending Yankton College for a

short period, I went to work for my dad. L.H.

Imig was a salesman for advertising and

peanuts and candy that we packaged in our

home and distributed under the name of

Lou Prudnick’s band; Lou on accordion; Sioux City

Son; Billy Dean, singer.

One of the older juke boxes. John Herrema, Jr.,

owner of Walnut Tavern Bar, where the juke box

is still, and Mike Imig, juke box owner.

Fanskow Brothers Blacksmith Shop and Implement Store. Second from left: Clarence Fanskow; fifth from

left, John S. Fanskow; and far right: Frank Fanskow; others unknown.
Mike and Irene Imig with Lawrence Walk (on left) at Mitchell Corn Palace.

“Mike’s Candies”. It was during this same period that Lawrence Walk came to Yankton and was on WNAX Radio for two programs each day. Lawrence had developed a product known as Lawrence Walk’s Honolulu Fruit Chewing Gum. Dad and I took on this gum and distributed it in three states. The gum was a good seller in the Black Hills area, Nebraska, and eastern South Dakota. Business was good but money was very tight. It was during this same period that my aunt and uncle, Mary and Chris Jorgenson, needed help in running their business. They operated the Star Hotel in Menno, South Dakota. I headed for Menno to work. Mary and Chris were like a second mother and father to me. The hotel housed a lounge called the “Blue Room”. Here was a Wurlitzer juke box for the customer’s entertainment. It was shortly after operating the Blue Room I decided I would go into the juke box business as an operator.

That juke belonged to George Hansford of Yankton. I got hold of George and discovered he had a coin machine route which he wanted to sell. With financial help from my aunt and uncle, I bought my first route.

I had just gotten started as an operator when Uncle Sam called and I was drafted by the Army. My wife, Irene, our then only child, Donna, and I moved to Kentucky where I served with the armed forces.

The coin machine route was operated by my dad (who was the greatest) and a hired helper, Helmut Jangman. They completely took over the route and I am very grateful to both of them for their assistance. My dad kept the business going while I was in the Army.

Upon my discharge from the service, I returned to South Dakota. Many changes were happening after the war and the juke box and record industry was no exception. The first juke held 10 to 24 records which were the 12 inch size and played at 78 rpm. The cost of playing a song to the customer was 5. That cost increased through the years to 10 per play and later to 35 per play.

There soon appeared the smaller 45 rpm record. The cost of a 45 rpm record in November, 1950, was 16 cents from the company I was buying from. A juke box cost $575.00 to $475.00 when I first started. Needless to say, 45s now cost in excess of $1.00 each and juke boxes cost $3,750.00 to $6,000.00.

I have several #1015 model Wurlitzer juke boxes that played the 78 rpm records. The introduction of the 45 rpm records made those Wurlitzers virtually obsolete. I had to dispose of those 78 juke boxes but didn’t have enough storage space so I hauled 25 of them to the junkyard. These 1015 Wurlitzers now bring $5,000.00 to $7,000.00 each as antiques if you are lucky enough to find one.

Throughout the years I had hundreds of locations in which I had machines in south-eastern South Dakota and northwestern Nebraska. I’ll mention a few of the favorite and well-remembered locations.

The most famous juke-box spot of all was the “Majestic Gardens” in Yankton. As you entered the “Big M” you were cordially greeted by John or Elaine Kacz. They were the perfect hosts. People from all over came to dance to the music provided by my juke box. Reservations for a booth were usually a must.

The dance floor was inlaid wood and the juke box was located on the balcony. About the middle of the dance floor was a large revolving light that “threw” bubbles all over the dance floor. On the balcony next to the juke was a miniature seven-piece dance band. When the juke would start, a curtain in front of the bank would pull back and the bank would play along with the record in the juke. The Majestic was a well-known and famous night club in this area. The many people who came to dance to that Wurlitzer juke box will long remember the Kacz and the Majestic Gardens.

Another famous juke box spot during this era was at Lumberjack Bar, located in Garretson, South Dakota. As you drove into downtown Utica you could hear the muffled tunes from the juke box, “Rum and Barrel Polla”, “Rum and Coca Cola” or “Pistol Packin’ Mammas” coming out of the door of the Lumberjack. Many wedding parties were held here and the juke was always going. I located on the banks of the beautiful James River east of Yankton was a favorite dining and drinking club for many Yankton people known as Kelly’s Cove. Lynn Kelly was a favorite host and the food was fantastic. The Kellys kept the juke box playing 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Kelsys played the juke box from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. and the wee hours of the morning. It had the prettiest view of any supper club in this area and the people loved to dance to the juke box to the sounds of Lawrence Walk, Wayne King and Guy Lombardo.

Probably the best location I had for a juke box was not in the same “5-star” category as the locations I just described. The Legion Lunch was a small establishment located on Burleigh Street in Yankton. Many of the customers at the Legion Lunch were the Indian people who really loved music. From 8:00 A.M. to 1:00 A.M. the juke box seldom stopped. The songs with a good beat were on the juke and again, two favorites were, “Rum and Coca Cola” and “Pistol Packin’ Mammas”. The Legion Lunch in its prime was really something to see if you missed it.

One of my best locations today is a place that features a 200-record Seeburg juke box. That spot happens to be at Allison’s L&L at downtown Yankton operated by Gary Room. Gary is an avid Elvis Presley fan and the juke has over fifty of the greatest hits by Elvis. Boomer’s customers enjoy his hospitality and the Presley records.

One of my oldest juke box places is Happy Jack’s. In about 1945, Happy Jack’s Chicken Shack was located on Old Highway #56. It was a very small business and would seat around 20 people. We had a juke box located there which played for 5 a tune. The juke would be playing all the time since juke boxes were very novel. Happy’s chicken was simply the greatest. Happy Jack’s is still operated by Larry O’Malley and is now a large supper club on New Highway #56 which still has my juke box and serves the same delicious chicken and great juke box.

Going back to the 1950’s when I first started in this business, I bought most of my machines in Omaha. On one of my trips to Omaha, I ran into a friend, Larry Frankel. He has started a juke box distribution company for Aseron juke boxes. The juke box didn’t work and he eventually went broke. He had a machine called the “Admiral Dewey” on the floor which was one of the first coin operated machines. It was about six feet high, made of oak and brass. He gave me this machine free one day and I brought it home and stored it. You can many times see this machine in western movies, or in Las Vegas there is an antique display which has an “Admiral Dewey”. I loaned it for Fort Yankton display when the Fort was operating.

My wife and I were on a trip to Bogota, South America, and while walking the beach I met an antique collector from Minneapolis. After explaining to him about my “Admiral Dewey” he made a later trip to Yankton and bought it for $7,000.00. I wished I hadn’t met him since less than a year later I was offered $12,000.00 but the “Admiral” was gone.

There was a period of time when I tried my luck as a record producer. There was a band at that time in Detroit called the “Grass Carrier Boys” and I asked the band if they would like to make a record. They didn’t think they would make a sale. We would go to the WNAX studios and work on the record after midnight. I got in contact with the engineer at the WNAX and got him involved in our record which was a good record and turned out to be a good one. Based on this record the band became popular in the Midwest on accordion and singing star Billy Dean. Lou later went on to musical fame with his own band which featured his daughter.

Irene and I attended a juke box convention in Chicago and met up with Louie at the Sherman Hotel garage I noticed a man looking at the sign on the side of our car which said, “Mike Imig Juke Box Co., Yankton, S.D.” In the 1960’s and 1970’s artists were very interested in having juke box operators put their records on our juke boxes. He asked me if I would do him a favor and invite Irene and myself to breakfast. He was Bullets Durham and was the manager for Tommy Dorsey and his orchestra. Bullets indicated they didn’t have any interest in the record and band and wondered if I could put one hundred of the record entitled “I’ll Never Smile Again” on my juke boxes. Of course, the singer was Frank Sinatra. Bullets Durham and I spent the morning together.

I became acquainted with another man at this same convention. Colonel Tom Parker was promoting a young singer he was then managing, Eddie Arnold. Bullets knew he would become famous as the manager of Elvis Presley. I met Lawrence Walk when he began his career at WNAX in Yankton. Through the years operating juke boxes, I have the pleasure of knowing many famous people. Louie has been a good friend and has treated me first class.

Irene and I traveled to Hollywood at the time Lawrence was starting to become known in the musical world. We had met up with the Coconut Grove and hosted a wonderful party. Lawrence indicated his records were not
MISSOURI VALLEY OBSERVER

B38

The Missouri Valley Observer's history is shorter than many South Dakota newspapers. It was founded in Gayville as a weekly in February of 1978 by Bernie Hunhoff Jr. The Observer adopted the name of another Gayville newspaper that was established in 1904, but that had long since been out of publication.

Although Gayville's population is only 400, the Observer prospered by serving a wide circulation area in southeastern South Dakota, including Yankton and nearly a dozen smaller towns. On Oct. 1, 1981, Ink Inc., the Observer's publishing company, merged with Maxon Investments, Inc., of Yankton, and Hunhoff was joined by William D. Maxon as publisher. The two products became known as the Missouri Valley Shopper and Observer. In May of 1983, Maxon and Hunhoff sold the Shopper and Observer to FNCO, a new media company that owns shoppers and weekly newspapers across the country. In 1988, Jim Geving was named publisher of the paper and M. Jill Karoleviz served as editor. Mary Duffy was named editor of the paper in August of 1985.

The Observer serves more than 4,000 subscribers in almost every state, making it the largest paid circulation weekly newspaper in South Dakota. Today, it continues to serve its readers with an all-local news product that covers the entire Missouri Valley region in southeastern South Dakota.

by Mary Duffy

MISSOURI VALLEY SHOPPER-OBSERVER

B39

The Missouri Valley Shopper, a free, 27,000 circulation weekly to Yankton County and the surrounding areas, and the Missouri Valley Observer, a weekly newspaper, with over 400 subscribers, have been serving Yankton county since 1985. But the publications were established as separate entities long before that.

The Missouri Valley Shopper was started in 1963 by Bob Fajfar. Like most new free circulation papers of that era, it began modestly as a simple advertising flyer. Fajfar used variety of promotions to build the business, including one that featured aerial photographs of the many small communities in the Yankton trade territory.

Bill Maxon purchased the Missouri Valley Shopper from Fajfar in 1973, although Fajfar continues to help with the operation. Maxon became publisher of The Shopper at some time when Yankton was on the verge of an economic boom and he knew that advertising for the larger department stores, as well as the smaller local stores would require complete saturation of the trade territory. He gradually began to increase the Shopper's circulation from 7,000 to its present 27,000. It is now the largest free circulation publication between Rapid City and Sioux Falls.

Bernie Hunhoff, Jr., and his wife, Myrna, started The Observer in the basement of their Gayville home in February of 1978. Their goal was to publish a weekly paid circulation newspaper that would serve not only the city of Yankton, but also the small towns of Yankton County and the surrounding Missouri Valley area. It started as a "good-news" newspaper, carrying entertainment and informative features and columns, as well as hard news stories. It continues that way today.

The Observer was circulated free for two weeks, and by that time the Hunhoffs had the required 300 subscriptions to qualify for their second class postage permit. Since then, subscriptions have steadily increased, now standing at over 4,800. It is now the largest single circulation weekly paper in South Dakota.

The Hunhoffs moved their newspaper from their basement to a nearly 100-year-old brick ex-bank building on the main street of Gayville. That meant Myrna had to have to move the typesetting equipment off of her washer before she could do the family laundry.

In 1981, Hunhoff and Maxon merged their operations, consolidating equipment and staff.

Headquarters for the combined publications is at 529 Broadway in Yankton. Subscriptions for The Observer, addressing and mailing took place at the Gayville office until June of 1985, when the entire business moved into Yankton.

The Shopper and The Observer were purchased by FNCO Corp., a nationwide communications company based in San Diego, California, in May of 1983.

The staff of the Shopper and The Observer is an award-winning newspaper team. In 1981, The Observer was honored by the South Dakota Newspaper Association as South Dakota's best newspaper in its circulation category. It was cited as second in the state in 1983, then went on to place third nationally in competition sponsored by the National Newspaper Association. The paper took third place statewide honors in 1985.

The Shopper has won several awards over the past several years from the Shopper Guides of Iowa/South Dakota for excellence in advertising.

Hunhoff, publisher and editor, and Maxon left The Shopper and The Observer staff in January of 1985. James Geving is now the publisher and general manager of both publications, and M. Jill Karoleviz is the editor of The Observer.

by Jill Karoleviz

NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY - ALTHOFF AGENCY

B40

Rick Althoff commenced his business January 17, 1979, after 6 years' experience with United States Government insurance program of Social Security. He began his career of protecting families and providing for their financial security by operating out of the family home, located at 505 Fine. As his progress continued, he moved to office space located in the old Northwestern Bell Telephone building located at 334 Walnut St. (across from the Post Office). Subsequently, he moved his office to 318 Broadway.

Rick continued to progress, attempting to bring the finest in financial planning products and service to the community. He continued to emphasize family financial planning, creative strategies for tax planning, and estate analysis and planning. He acquired his Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) in October of 1982. Rick continued to grow with his client and community needs, and was awarded the Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) diploma in October of 1984.

He was required to relocate his office once again, as the Valley State Bank moved to its new location.

by Rick Althof

NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERV COMPANY I YANKTON

In 1887, the firm of Lemuel Ki Richey was employed by Egh Malcolm Walker and Joseph Albert who was a well known on the - south end of Locust Street. The firm was six inches in diameter and produced a gas that could be used as water for fire fighting purposes. It was the first dynamo in Yankton, and from this began the electrical current which now furnishes power to the city of Yankton.
THWESTERN

TUAL LIFE INSURANCE

NY - ALTHOFF AGENCY

B40

William F. Althoff

NORTHWESTERN

PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY IN

YANKTON

B41

In 1987, the firm of Lemen, Kerr and Zima was employed by Ephraim Miner, Malcolm Walker and Joseph Ward to construct a new power plant at the Yankton site. The resulting building was six inches in diameter and 580 feet deep and produced a gasifier which spouted a volume of water several feet into the air. This flow of water was carried in a pipeline laid halfway down the hill, at which point a turbine water wheel was installed which developed about 25 horsepower. Belted to the turbine was the first dynamic engine to operate in Yankton, and from this began the electrical current which furnished light and power to the city of Yankton for the first time.

Over the next 37 years, there were several attempts by individuals and firms to generate electric power in sufficient quantity, and of adequate reliability, to provide for the needs of households, businesses and street lighting. Included were such names as Miner, Walker and Ward; Fred Schmauer, George Stougal and M.P. Ohlman; John T.M. Pierce, the Yankton Electric and Manufacturing Company, the Yankton General Electric Company, Robert R. MacGregor, W.H. Edmunds, the Yankton Light and Power Company, and the Eastern Electric Company.

Northwestern Public Service Purchases Yankton System

In 1924, Northwestern Public Service Company purchased the Yankton electric system. A newly formed company, NWPS filed its certificate of incorporation on November 27, 1923. The North Platte (Nebraska) Light & Power Company, the Aberdeen Light & Power Company, South Dakota the Columbus (Nebr.) Light, Heat & Power Company, and the electric plant and distribution system at Clark formed the nucleus of the new company.

During 1926, NWPS acquired the electric property at Yankton, the electric and gas properties at Mitchell and Huron, and the electric properties of Consumers Utility Company located in 13 smaller South Dakota communities including several in the Yankton area. Additional growth over the years has brought to 106 the number of South Dakota communities served electrically by NWPS. The company also serves 26 South Dakota communities and three Nebraska cities with natural gas.

Contrasting Technologies

Early day electric service in Yankton provided a sharp contrast to today's technology. Service for lighting began as an hour before sundown and was turned off promptly at midnight. The primary wires used for distribution of electricity jumped from house to house, with transformers actually set in customers' attics. In one instance, a housewife on Linn Street was using the wires for her clothesline during the non-operational daytime hours.

Today's modern, interconnected electric system provides Yankton customers of NWPS with electric energy at the flip of a switch, day or night. . . . energy not only for lighting, but for literally hundreds of jobs around the home or business. Water wheel-driven dynamos have given way to steam boilers, which have been replaced by diesel engines. The diesel generating units at the Yankton power plant are now used primarily during periods of peak demand. Most of the electric energy consumed here is supplied by large, coal-fired generating units located near Sioux City, Iowa, Big Stone City, South Dakota, and Beulah, North Dakota.

E.T. Hughes was Northwestern Public Service Company's first Yankton division manager, having formerly been an employee of Northwestern's predecessor, Eastern Electric Company. Following Hughes, chronicler of Yankton division managers have been Roy Barron, Bill Dunn, Jesse Olson, Gerry Hoover, and Bill Gilster, present manager.

by Bruce Patten

P. BINDER AND SONS

BINDER BROTHERS, INC.

B42

In 1869 Fred Schmauer began operation of a little pop factory in Yankton. In 1870 an ice business was added and for years the establishment grew in volume of business.

P. Binder and sons plant located at 508 West 2nd Street, Yankton, South Dakota.
Among the employees in Mr. Schnauzer's plant during the later years of his business career were Peter Binder and his sons, Emil and Fred. On January 1, 1903, the Binders purchased the Schnauzer business and operated for a number of years under the name, P. Binder & Sons.

Under the Binder management the business enjoyed a rapid healthy growth. Equipment for the manufacture of ice cream was added to the plant in 1906 when it was located at 500 West 2nd. Rapid growth necessitated the construction of a larger, more modern building. In 1913 a large fire-proof building was built at 507 West 3rd street to house the Binder plant.

On February 5, 1933 a corporation was formed and from that date on the business operated under the name of Binder Brothers, Inc.

Binder's ice cream was famous throughout the territory. Pure dairy products, pure sugars, and pure fruits and flavorings were used in the manufacture of Binder's ice cream.

All that stored stores would find Binder's ice cream in hotels and restaurants - wherever a fine menu was featured, you could order this rich ice cream, and you would find sundae's and fountain specials made with it a new delight!

Binder's carbonated beverages - tart, snappy carbonated beverages, perfectly fizzy with a touch of sparklingly Distinctively favored, perfectly carbonated, as only a concern employing the most modern equipment, and putting into use the knowledge and formulas obtained over 50 years of experience, can make it. Many of the beverages were made from pure fruit juices and pure sparkling waters.

The business, which started in 1869, consisted of cutting or harvesting the ice during the winter months from the Missouri River and storing it in ice houses with sawdust covering. When spring and summer came and a need for the ice developed, it was taken from the ice houses and delivered to the ice boxes of the Yankton homes by horse drawn ice wagons. When mechanical refrigeration entered the scene the demand for natural ice diminished.

The winter of 1906 was the last year ice was cut from the river and the ice business was discontinued and became a part of the past. Prohibition ended in the United States as the 30th state ratified the 21st Amendment December 5, 1933. Soon thereafter — Binders went into the beer distribution business.

In 1934 Binders purchased several semi-trailer trucks to service their beer dealer customers in this territory with Blatz and Goets Beers. Later other brands of beer were also added to their operation. Shortly after World War II started, service shortages developed in the beer industry as well as other problems. They discontinued the distribution of beer.

The management of the company remained in the family through its 97 year history, as follows: Fred Schnauzer (1859-1939), founder, sold out to the Binder family in 1903. Peter Binder (1840-1928) was manager for a number of years. Both his sons, Emil (1861-1937) and Fred (1864-1961) shared responsibility in the operation of the company. On the death of Emil, Harry Bidner, Emil's son became manager and continued on until 1961.

After World War II both Doc (son of Fred) and Jim (son of Elmer) Binder were in the family in operation. Don became President of the Corporation and manager while Jim became Secretary of the Corporation and general sales manager.

The buildings and property of Binder Brothers, Inc., were sold to LK Anderson of Yankton. Wells Blue Bunny of LeMars, Iowa bought the ice cream business and some of the soft drink equipment was sold to L. Beal, Inc. of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The remaining personal property was sold at auction in June of 1966, thus ended one of Yankton's pioneer businesses.

Among the many loyal employees of the Corporation were Ernest Hayes engineer and bottler for over 44 years, N.K. Fiedel ice cream maker - 43 years, and Louis Smith took care of the horses and worked in the bottling department for over 35 years.

by Don J. Binder

PILLAR'S COLONIAL HOUSE OF FLOWERS
AND PILLAR'S TRAVEL AGENCY

Richard and Dee Pillar opened their Flower Shop in the Fall of 1967. Using a half of a house owned by Frank Kohutet at 406 Cedar. They moved their business to it's present location at 714 Douglas in the Spring of 1968.

The building at 714 Douglas goes back a long way in Yankton's history. It's location adjacent to the railroad tracks made it become a cafe and rooming house for people traveling through the city. It was a grocery store for many years; the last being Haskers Market until they moved across the street. Being an old grocery store it was easy to convert into a Flower Shop. The walk in meat cooler was ideal for use as a flower refrigerator. Using the colonial theme throughout, with wagon wheel chandeliers; Brass tea pot side lighting, candy stripe carpeting and wood paneling, it was extensively remodeled.

We have now added some old pieces of furniture which belonged to Richard's Grandmother, old trunks which brought Doc's Grandparents to Yankton from Albert Lea, Minnesota many years ago. We have added many pieces of memorabilia to the century-old building. If the walls could talk I am sure it could tell us some fascinating stories about the history of Yankton. In the Spring of 1984 the building again was threatened by a flood, but the building still seems to endure the sands of time.

by Richard W. Pillars

Pillar's Colonial House of Flowers and offices of Pillar's Travel Agency

PRESS AND DAKOTAN
The Yankton Daily Press and the oldest continuously published and the first daily newspaper in the state.

From its beginning as the Wednesday June 6, 1861, and its first day as the Press and Dakotan 1875, it has had an interesting history. Its original equipment came vi oxen-drawn wagons from Sioux (day trip later, one of the first powered cylinder presses was Yankton on a Missouri River stave.

There was a brief time in 1869 newspaper building was used to go to who had come to Yankton possible hostile attack after the Mankato, Minnesota massacre. The housing the Weekly Dakotan was around which the Yankton St built.

There have been many published in Yankton, the most brought about as the result Today's Daily Press and its combination of several of them.

The Weekly Dakotan appears 1861, just three months after the Territorial Act by Pres Buchanan on March 2, 1861. It year and had the motto, "Where Our Country Leads - We Will" Frank M. Zielke, William J.B.S. Todd were the initial four first building in the 1925 building side of Broadway between Secon Streets.

These newspaper hoped to first trying to get the attention around which was to meet in Yankton which were disappointed to learn that t for this political plum a award to George C. Scott, Joe, So. Ziebel, Frenny and Ted sold to sell their newspaper to J. B. King, et al.

This edition in turn sold George W. Kingsbury, Dr. W. leigh, Eben Stutman and Alben Barlough became the s 1863 and the first competition June 21, 1864. It was called the D which lasted 10 weeks. This ed by Kingsbury who broke the the Weekly Dakotan out of the candidacy of Barlough if Kingsbury joined Moses K. A. surveyor, in this publishing est

The Weekly Dakotan in the spring election, after Barlough was bury established a partnership v forming the Union and Dakota

Kingsbury became the sole on He sold the newspaper in 1869. Clay McPherson, as a newspaper. McPherson months later sold it to Arthur Li established the Sioux Valley A.

Again politics had a hand in a of the Dakotan, this time political disagreement caused i local Republican party, to stop newspaper, the Weekly Yank leading the in the summer of 1870... by Kingsbury and James M. R.
PRES AND
DAKOTAN

The Yankton Daily Press and Dakotan is the oldest continuously published newspaper and the first daily newspaper in both Dakot
From its beginning as the Weekly Dakotan on June 6, 1861, and its introduction as a daily as the Press and Dakotan on April 20, 1875, it has had an interesting history. Its original equipment came via horse and oar-drawn wagons from Sioux City, a four-day trip. In 1881, one of the first steam-powered cylinder presses was brought to Yankton on a Missouri River steamboat.
There was a brief interval in 1862 when the newspaper building was used to house refugees who had come to Yankton fleeing a poisonous horse attack after the famous Mankato, Minnesota Massacre. The building housing the Weekly Dakotan was in the area around which the Yankton Stockade was built.
There have been many newspapers published in Yankton — many of them brought about as the result of politics. Today’s Daily Press and Dakotan is a combination of several of them.
The Weekly Dakotan appeared on June 6, 1861, just three months after the signing of the Territory Act by President James Buchanan on March 2, 1861. It cost $2 per year and had the motto, “Where the Flag of Our Country Leads — We Will Follow.”
Frank M. Ziebach, William Freney and J.B. brick the first issue of the newspaper, their first building was a log building on the west side of Broadway between Second and Third Streets.
These newspapersmen hoped to reap profits from printing for the first Territorial legislature which was to meet in Yankton. But they were disappointed to learn that the contracts for this political plum had already been awarded to Josiah C. Trask of Kansas.
So, Ziebach, Freney and Todd were compelled to sell their newspaper interests to Trask. This Kaskanium in turn sold the paper to George W. Kingsbury, Dr. Walter A. Burleigh, Elco Stutsman and Albert Gore.
Walter Burleigh became the sole owner in 1863 and the first competition appeared on June 21, 1864. It was called the Dakota Union which lasted 10 weeks. This newspaper was edited by Kingsbury who broke away from the Weekly Dakotan over his opposition to the candidacy of Burleigh for Congress. Kingsbury joined Moses R. Armstrong, a surveyor, in this publishing enterprise.
The Weekly Dakotan dissolved after the election, which Dr. Burleigh won, and Kingsbury established a partnership with Burleigh forming the Union and Dakotan.
Kingsbury became the sole owner in 1866. He sold the newspaper in 1869 to Charles H. Malatyre and James S. Foster, who, six months later, sold it to Arthur Linn, who later established the Sioux Valley News at Canton.
Again politics had a hand in the formation of another Yankton newspaper. After a political disagreement caused a split in the local Republican party, a rival Republican newspaper, the Weekly Yankton Press, was founded in the summer of 1870. It was owned by Kingsbury and James M. Stone. Frank M. Ziebach, who had returned to Yankton from Sioux City, was foreman and George H. Hand was editor.
A new milestone in printing took place when the Yankton Press set up a steam-powered cylinder press which had been brought to Dakota by steamboat.
The first issue of the paper rolled off that press on August 10, 1870. It had a nine-column page and was described as "the best-looking paper west of the Mississippi." And politics resulted in the establishment of Dakota Herald, a Democratic paper, published by Marius Taylor and T.S. Singler in 1870.
It was early in 1873 that Stone sold his interest in the Yankton Press to S.V. Clever
In the spring of 1874, Kingsbury sold his interest to Clever. That summer Brown sold to Gen. W.P. Dewey, surveyor general of the territory, and Clever sold to A.W. Bartoo.
This was the Gold Rush period. Wheeler S. Bowen arrived from Wisconsin and joined Kingsbury in a partnership known as W.S. Bowen and Company in November 1874 and published a daily edition called the Yankton Black Hiller. It was so successful that they decided to turn the Press and Dakotan into a daily and the first issue appeared on Nov. 25, 1875.
There was little Associated Press news in the first issue because it was reported that the daily in Sioux City had tried to scuttle Yankton’s effort to receive the news reports over the telegraph line. The new daily was located on the west side of Walnut Street between Second and Third.
Spelling of Dakotan continued until April 26, 1889. Until then, the name was thought to be correct because the suffix “ian” was added to the name Dakota as contrasted with the “Dakotan” spelling. The Press and Dakot
Dakotan was used on the nameplate and masthead for 14 years. The changeover occurred with the year of statehood, and it became an afternoon paper at the same time.
The partnership of Bowen and Kingsbury continued until late in 1902 when it sold the Press and Dakotan to David E. Lloyd. W.C. Luk sold the Press and Dakotan in 1903 and combined it with another newspaper in the late 1900s named Gazette. The Press and Dakotan-Gazette operated until 1977.
The Yankton Printing Company was formed in 1906 by Lloyd, John Holman, Hermon K. Konitz and Howard Konitz for a joint publication of the Press and Dakotan and the Yankton Press, a German language newspaper which had been founded in 1874. In 1908, the Prese Press was sold and moved to Aberdeen, Ellerman and Konitz retired from the firm at this time and Holman retired in 1910.
In 1977, W.C. Lukch, with his three sons, Ted, Willard and Bob along with Charles H. Mitchell, G.F. McCannon, W.T. Travis and Fred Monfore, organized the Lush-Mitchell Newspapers, Inc., which pur
In 1939, the Rapid City Journal, the Evening Horizons at Huron in 1927 and the Daily Herald in Austin, Minnesota, in 1929.

W.C. Lukch was publisher of the Press and Dakotan for 37 years until his death in 1940. His son, Robert D. Lukch,Horon, acquired the stock after the death of his father. On Jan. 1, 1944, Fred H. Monfore purchased the controlling interest. He had joined the firm in 1930 as a editor and had become publisher in 1940 after W.C. Lukch’s death.
Associated with him as business manager and secretary and treasurer of the Yankton Printing Co., was Freeman F. Otto, who joined the firm on Jan. 1, 1944. James M. Floyd became vice president of the firm in 1950.

The death of Fred Monfore on Nov. 25, 1961, his wife Sallye became publisher. She was publisher for five years before her son, Robert W. Monfore接管

RADIO STATION

KYNT

William M. Smith, President and Treasurer of the Yankton Broadcasting Company, was authorized to operate KYNT in Yankton, South Dakota, on January 27, 1955. The station was licensed to transmit analog radio signals on 1450 kilocycles at a power of 350 watts with unlimited hours of operation. Estimated construction costs for the new station were $30,622; expected first year operating expens

The original studios were located on the third floor at 214 West Third Street in Yankton. Regular programming began on March 13, 1955, with William E. Johnson as Station Manager. The downtown studios were closed in 1958 and the facilities moved to Mr. Smith’s Kochi Mobile Complex on north Highway 81. The transmitter site remained at 214 and west City Limits Road. The Yankton Printing Company sold KYNT to Leon T. Scobic and Lloyd G. Reedstrom for $175,400. The sale was approved by the Federal Communications Commission on May 18, 1960, and the new owners assumed control on May 24th. Operations continued to be centered in the Kochi Complex for several years and then the
studios and offices were moved to the downtown Yankton area at 307½ Walnut Street.

The station became an outlet for the Mutual Broadcasting System in 1964 and featured a "block programming" format. The station was in daily operation from 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 midnight with Sunday programming starting at 8:00.

Daytime power was increased from 250 to 1,000 watts in 1965 with nighttime power remaining at 250 watts. By 1971, KYNT was programming a "middle-of-the-road" music format with the addition of three new studios. The station was sold to a new owner effective November 1, 1972.

On July 1, 1973 KYNT became the property of the Sorenson Broadcasting Corporation, Dean P. Sorenson, President. The Federal Communications Commission approved the sale on July 28, 1973. At that time Mr. Sorenson and Thomas J. Simmons were co-owners of KCCB in Pierre, South Dakota. Purchase price was $235,000.

Tom Kearsna was named to the post of General Manager and the station continued with its "middle-of-the-road" music format during daytime hours and began broadcasting "contemporary" music at night.

In 1974, KYNT dropped its AM affiliation but retained the Mutual Broadcasting System.

Tom Kearsna left KYNT to become a partner in the purchase of a Rapid City station and Kurt Browall became General Manager. A new "Adult MOR/News and Information" program format was instituted in 1976 and additional studios and offices were moved to the present location at 202 West 2nd St. KYNT became affiliated with the American Broadcasting Company Information Radio Network in early 1982 — continuing the services of the Mutual Broadcasting system.

Today, KYNT operates from 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight (Sundays 6:00 a.m. to midnight) with an "Adult Contemporary" music format, serving the Missouri Valley at 1400 kilohertz at a full power of 1,000 watts. General Managers since 1983 have included Harold E. Happe, Rick Proutz and present General Manager Mike Parsley.

by Pete Peterson

RAY FUNERAL CHAPEL

Ray Funeral Chapel, Inc. Yankton, SD entered its 112th year of operations in 1986.

J.R. Sanborn (1831-1909) original owner.

L.R. Edward Tenge 1849-1917 was an owner with widow of Will Sanborn, Sarah Sanborn. In 1910, Edward Tenge sold the business to his son, Will Tenge (1885-1929).

Will Sanborn (1858-1900) and Sarah F. Sanborn (1861-1933).

Ray Funeral Chapel, Yankton, observes its 112th year of continuous service this year.

The history of this esteemed business dates back to 1874 when J.R. Sanborn established the firm. In 1898, a young German immigrant by the name of Edward Tenge was employed by Sanborn, shortly before the hanging of Jack McCall. He was taken in as a partner in 1900.

Their business also included a furniture store, and was located at 515 W. Third Street. In 1906, Tenge purchased Sanborn's interests, and a decade later in 1910 sold the business to his son, William S. Tenge. At one time, the business was located at 233 Broadway.

Funerals were held at homes or churches in early times. On one occasion when the fat lady was in a circus died of an overdose of morphine during a scheduled appearance in Yankton, she had her funeral in the Sanborn warehouse with only one mourner present. A piano box was used for a casket when the corpse was too large for a standard casket.

On another occasion, when the hospital's ambulance burned, the Tenge grey horse-drawn funeral hearse was used to take an ill person from the railroad depot to the hospital.

A.G. Schenk, a brother-in-law of William S. Tenge; and W.S. Donohoe purchased the business from the Tenge estate, following Tenge's death. In 1920, Donohoe continued to make window shades.

In 1934 Floyd A. Schenk, son of A.G. Schenk, was admitted to the partnership in the old established firm.

John W. Murdich became a partner in the fall of 1959.

Stan Ray joined Floyd Schenk in the summer of 1963 as a licensed funeral director

and embalmer. Schenk was oper- er funeral home in Mitchell, Sou and Ray assisted in both operations.

In 1966, Ray went to Northome and was associated with Farber & Son Funeral Home, which had six locations in the northern part of the state. In 1970, he opened a new funeral home in Yankton, which was purchased by Jack Ray.

In January of 1977, Ray purchased the funeral home from Schenk, who 26 years later sold the business to Ray.

The original Ray Funeral Chapel was constructed in 1963, and was the residence of William H. Edmondson. A.G. Schenk purchased the building and operated the funeral business in this building.

According to Ray, the four former pioneer hotel buildings is in the grass at certain times; rainstorms or on hot days.

The present chapel was built on the site of the original building in 1983 to accommodate the growing community.

Among the intern's serving with his brother, Don Ray, were David J. Ray, a summer intern in 1977; John Feleke, a summer intern in 1978; Steve Norban, a summer intern in 1979; and Matt Pepper, a summer intern in 1981.

Ray has been on the National Registry of Embalmers since 1983 and has been a member of the South Dakota Funeral Association since 1984.

Ray's funeral home is located at 211 North 2nd Street, Yankton, SD 57078. For more information, contact 605-218-2200.

by RURAL ELECTRIFICAT

Box Homme - Yankton Association, Inc.

The early 20s were the days of the "midwest farms. A farmer would have to trust because there was no..."
al Chapel, Yankton, observes its continuous service this year.

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ynd A. Schenk, son of A.G. donated to the partnership in the Sanborn firm. The wife became a partner in the joined Floyd Schenk in the 3 as a licensed funeral director and embalmer. Schenk was operating another funeral home in Mitchell, South Dakota, and Ray assisted in both operations.

In 1969, Ray went to Northwestern Iowa and was associated with Farber and Ortenz Funeral Home, which had businesses in Sac and Buena Vista counties. His involvement was in the partnership and managerial capacities. He left there in 1974, and was associated with Myron Iverson in the Wagner-Iverson Funeral Home, Vermillion, South Dakota, prior to returning to Yankton in 1976, where he was employed again by the Schenk Funeral Home.

In January of 1977, Ray purchased the funeral home from Schenk, who retired. The firm was known as the Schenk Ray Funeral Chapel for several months until the summer of 1978 when the name was changed to the Ray Funeral Chapel. It is now operated by Ray and his wife, Judy.

The original Ray Funeral Chapel building was constructed in 1935, and was the summer residence of William H. Edmundo, Yankton. A.G. Schenk purchased the building in 1923, operated the funeral business in the lower level, and lived on the second floor with his family.

According to Ray, the old foundation of a former pioneer hotel building is still visible in the grass at certain times after heavy rainstorms or on hot days.

The present chapel was built onto the west side of the original building that was added in 1937, and was said to be one of the most modern funeral chapels in the state. The chapel was dedicated into the profession came there for practical experience on this type of arrangement.

Among the interns serving with Ray, his brother, Jerry, who was an intern at Minot Hill, in the summer of 1977-78; Steve Norman, York, Neb, in 1978-79; Robin Reed, Osmond, Neb., in 1979-80; and Matt Pepper, Sioux Falls, in 1980-81. Reed rejoined the staff after his mortuary science training and state board examinations in 1981, and remained there until 1983.

Kevin Osash, a native of Redfield, South Dakota, and a Yankton College student, and a 1980 graduate of the University of Minnesota with a bachelor of science degree, joined the staff in August of 1982 to begin his internship, and is currently residing in the funeral home with his wife, Lisa, and is presently licensed in South Dakota.

Ray has been a part of many occasions for history records, especially by genealogists. The only records missing were the W.S. Tenge records from Aug. 21, 1917, to Dec. 6, 1921, loaned out and never returned.

by Stan Ray

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Bon Homme - Yankton Electric Association, Inc.

The early 20s were the dark days on midwest farms. A farmer worked from dawn to dusk because there was no light except daylight to be had. As soon as the sun disappeared, things came pretty much to an end with the exception of those activities which could be carried on in the dim light of a kerosene lantern. Things did improve a bit — in the house at least — with the advent of the Aledin Lamp. Fueled by pressurized gasoline, they provided a brighter and a more penetrating source of light.

The late 1920s and the early 30s saw the start of the "light plant" era. A few farmsteads boasted 52 volt electric systems that gave them one light in each room and in the barn. There were sixteen two-volt batteries which powered the electric; and when the power got low and the lights grew dim, it was time to start up a gasoline powered motor and start the re-charging process. Later, wind chargers became popular — but after a couple of calm days, the lights would dim and out would come the kerosene lanterns until the winds began to blow again.

Then in 1935, a government agency was created which was to bring about the biggest revolution that ever hit American farming. The Rural Electrification Administration came into being by Executive Order of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Initially the loans were made to existing power suppliers and only two or three loans were made. It just wasn't deemed feasible to build electric lines to service one farm per mile for an expected usage of 30 or 50 kilowatt hours per month.

But the farmers had a different idea. They wanted electricity and they created organizations of farmers to show their desire and their intention to have electricity delivered to their farms.

Iowa and Nebraska led the way and then some time in 1940, a South Dakota group began to hold meetings. This early organization was known as Missouri Valley Electric Association and as "South Dakota-1 Yankton" was the first to make an application to R.E.A. for funds to build lines. Early promoters included Curtis M. Smith, Leo Rabenschutz, Basil DelShano and others. J. Leonard Feldman was legal advisor for the group.

Howard Frederickson, a fieldman for the R.E.A. met with these people and prepared a feasibility report and an application for funds. Although the legal advisor was not overly enthusiastic about the project, the farmers were anxious to get things going. Clay County had already organized and their plans were progressing rapidly.

The Yankton group was advised to consider a joint effort with Bon Homme County and several meetings were held in Tabor to lay the groundwork. Farmers, William Raabe and County Agent Ray McDaniel were early participants in the meetings which eventually resulted in the formation of the BonHomme-Yankton Electric Association.

The first recorded meeting was held in Tabor on February 28th, 1945, and with the help of Attorney Frank Vladyka, they organized and elected a Board of Directors, including William Raabe, President, Basil DelShano, Vice President, and Curtis M. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer. Other directors included Joseph Vath, Reverend A.B. Meyers, William Grass, Joseph A. Haury, John Grass, Karl Grass, Jerry Vath, and James Vladek.

The early meetings were many and frequent — planning sessions — as often as once a week. Directors were allowed $3.00 for one day's work per month; directors were attended at their own expense.

Boisl and Winters, a Sioux City engineering firm, was hired to draw up plans and specifications for the distribution lines and to prepare a list of necessary materials. Ray McDaniel, Bon Homme County Agent was hired as acting manager in May of 1945. Joseph Bas was named co-ordinator and assigned the task of signing up members and obtaining easements to set poles on farmers' property. Mary Ann Haldik was hired as office secretary.

The engineers established two substation sites. One near Utica and another just west of Tabor. A contract was negotiated with Northwestern Public Service Company to furnish the necessary amount of electricity to these two sites. The system has now grown to include seven substations — each one capable of handling as much or more power than the total of the first two.

The first loan was approved on April 24, 1945 and the first contract for construction of lines was signed on October 28th, 1947. There were anxious times. The project was being delayed by a shortage of line materials and there were the uncertainties that come with innovation. Copper wire was especially in tight supply and finally Curtis Nelson went to Senator Clair George for help. Senator George just happened to know the president of the Phelps-Dodge Corporation, manufacturers of line wire and placed a personal call to him. That's all it took and soon copper wire was being delivered by the trainload.

Some farms in Clay County had received
electricity as early as October of 1937 — but it wasn’t until 1948 that 95 miles of line were built to 94 Ron Homm-Yankton consumers and energized. In 1949 and 1950 more and more farms were beginning to be served by Ron Homm-Yankton Electric. Some of the lines were built by a contractor and some short lines were built by the Co-operative’s small crew.

The power plant and lines that served the town of Talbot were purchased in 1948. When the generators were removed from the power plant, the building was remodeled and con- verted to office and warehouse use. In a few short years it became necessary to build a new building to house materials and maintenance facilities. It was a common sight to see power poles stacked along the railroad siding for a quarter of a mile or more.

The first electricity was purchased from Northwestern Public Service. In 1950 a contract was approved with East River Electric for wheeling wholesale power and a contract was approved with the federal government for wholesale power. In 1954 Ron Homm-Yankton received its first power from the Missouri River Dam.

Some 800 members were receiving electric service by 1950 and today the number has grown to more than 2,700. The average resident customer uses almost 1,500 kilowatt-hours every month, — that’s about thirty times the expected use when the system was first conceived.

In 1969, Ron Homm-Yankton Electric began the installation of 7,200 volt under- ground lines when new lines were needed. To date some 300 miles of line are underground and although it has not solved all line problems, damage caused by sleet, snow, wind and lightning have almost been eliminated.

Three managers have held the reins at Ron Homm-Yankton Electric. R.G. Hanson served from April 17 to October 18, 1949. Lloyd Jones was named to succeed Hanson and served until his retirement in 1976. David Wastlack replaced Aten and is currently serving as manager. Over 40 people have served on the Board of Directors since the system was formed in 1945.

In 1975, Ron Homm-Yankton Electric came into the computer age and records were transferred to a computer system. It is now possible to retrieve almost any record needed to solve billing, metering and operating problems.

At first it was thought R.R.A. power would be used primarily as a source of light and perhaps power the washing machine. But, when power came to rural America, ways to use it blossomed in every direction. Rather than a convenience, electricity became a hard-working member of the farm family. It pumped water, cooked food, it powered dozens of kitchen appliances, it cured the chill of winter day and cooled summer’s heat. It milked the cows, ground the feed, ventilated the barn, sawed wood, sheared the sheep. The list is seemingly endless and new uses are still being discovered.

In the year 1986, R.R.A. is celebrating it’s fiftieth year and Ron Homm-Yankton Elec- tric Association is it’s fortieth anniversary. Nothing before or since has revolutionized farming as much as the introduction of electric power to the rural community.

by Lloyd Aten

RUTH’S BEAUTY SALON AND STAIRWAY TO FASHION B48

Ruth’s Beauty Salon and Stairway to Fashion, 114 Broadway, Yankton, South Dakota, is owned and operated by Ruth Pearson. Ruth has been in the field of cosmetology for forty three years, since graduating from Brown’s Beauty School in 1942 in Sioux Falls. She first worked as a beautician at Parket, then at Scotland. She married Dale V. Pearson of Yankton, South Dakota in 1943 and lived for a time in Wisconsin and California during World War II when her husband served in the United States Army. They returned to South Dakota and lived in Bertsford for about a year where Ruth worked at her profession. They moved to rural Iowa and Ruth worked part time at the Chris Ann Beauty Shop in Yankton while her children were small.

Later, she worked for Eileen Gustaf of Eileen’s Beauty Shop in Yankton, eventually entering into partnership with Eileen. Nearly a year later, Eileen became ill and Ruth bought the business. The year was 1958, and this was the beginning of Ruth’s Beauty Salon which was located in the Hotel Eide Building at Third & Broadway. She operated her business there for four years, moving to 311 Cedar in 1962 because of the need for more space to accommodate her growing business.

In 1972, Ruth made another move. She bought the historic old brick building at 114 Broadway. It was known as the “Burleigh- Wallaum House”. The historical signifi- cance is that it was built in 1880 by W. A. Burleigh who was the first Indian agent sent to the Dakota Territory by Abraham Lincoln. The original features of the rooms were not changed, such as wood paneling, original rooms and fixtures, etc. The spacious rooms of this building allowed more expansion of the business which eventually led along with the beauty salon, a ladies ready- to-wear department, a bridal wear shop and a uniform shop.

Ruth A. Pearson was born April 2, 1923 at Riverside, South Dakota, the son of Fred and Bessie (Doman) Pearson. He farmed near Yankton and attending schools there. Her parents were Gus and Anna (Scherer) Deutcher, Ruth’s longhanded, Dale, died in 1975. Their children are Wayne Allen, born 20 December, 1947 (who married Betty Weber) and David Frederick, born 4 May, 1949, who married Lucille Ulmer. There are five grandchildren.

by Ruth A. Pearson

SCOBLC STATIONERS B49

Scoblic Stationers had it’s origin in June of 1959 when a partnership formed by Lloyd Scoblic and Lloyd Reedstrom purchased the business owned and operated by Jack and Verna Eastman known as Eastmans, Inc.

Eastmans Inc came into being when they purchased the controlling interest in the Hughes Sergeant Press — a firm primarily into printing but which did some retailing of office related products.

The newly purchased business became known as Scoblic-Redstream, Stationers and was located at 312 Douglas in the Christopher Building.

In February of 1954, Scoblic-Redstream moved into a building newly constructed by Keller Construction Company located at 224 West Third Street. The business remains housed in that building at this time.

In 1960, Leon Scoblic and Lloyd Reedst- ron purchased Radio Station KYNT. Lloyd Reedstrom, also known as Lloyd Grant — and Grandpa Windpenny — having worked most of his life in radio in South Dakota and Minnesota, became manager of KYNT and Leon Scoblic continued to manage Scoblic-Redstream, Stationers. In 1973, KYNT was sold to the Sorensen Broadcasting Company and the partnership was also dissolved when Leon Scoblic purchased Lloyd Reedstrom’s share of that partnership and Scoblic Sta- tioners, Inc. was formed. Leon Scoblic was President of the Corporation for several years before turning the reins over to his son James J. Scoblic in September of 1981.

James Scoblic was involved in the business during his High School and College years and since college has devoted all of his time to the various aspects of the business, finally be- coming its President.

Scoblic Stationers inventory and gross sales have increased more than ten fold over the intervening years.

by Leon Scoblic

“AN EARLY SORGHUM MILL” B50

by Bern

SOUTH DAKOTA MAGAZINE

Yankton is the home base Dakota Magazine, a publication March of 1965 by Bernie and I hoff. The magazine publishes a South Dakota history, interesting places, poetry, photos and illustra- tions. The magazine is distributed South Dakota through news stands throughout the world by mail. Ironically, Yankton was also the home of an earlier South Dakota similar publication. It was begun Robinson, who later began the S Dakota Society and became one of the state’s foremost historians. He la magazine and early ceased publication 1907.

The Hunhoff, who also i was with the Missouri Valley (1873) published it until 1885 before re- turned to many years of prop- erty in Yankton as new building.

by Bern
The sorghum mill as it was called by everyone that lived four miles north of Yankton and one mile east and about 3/4 mile north was located on the John Fiecks farm, later the farm bought by Gus B. Hill.

The sorghum was used to make molasses and was made from a certain kind of cane sorghum. The molasses was used on pancakes and on bread.

The plant came about, say some, that the Prairie Local Farmers Union decided on having a sorghum processing plant, and then others say it was a neighborhood project. Neighbors helped to build it.

The sorghum mill had a sorghum press on which the cement foundation can still be seen and a building which housed the evaporating pans that were made of copper. The pan was twenty feet long and four feet wide with three sections of copper channels. Raw juice came into the mill and the last one had the cooked molasses.

The farmers would bring the sorghum cane and also the hard wood which was three and four feet long and the cobs that were used under the evaporating pans. The mill was used until a wind storm destroyed the building.

On the press foundation is printed in the concrete 1918 and it is believed it was built then. This foundation is now on the Owen Hill farm. It is believed this sorghum mill was built here because there was a small sand pit close by and they used the sand for the foundation and in addition the land couldn’t be used for farming.

The school children that attended Prairie School District #9 after school on their way home at times would take stalks of the cane and put it through the presses and sip out the juice.

The press was sold to someone west of Yankton out by the Lakeport area during the dirty thirties for the sum of $20.00.

by Owen Hill

The Yankton City Directory of 1876 lists William Stier and Herman Faller as proprietors of a meat market, wholesale and retail dealers in fresh and salt meats as well as flour, feed and provisions. Their place of business, at that time, was located on the east side of Broadway, between 3rd & 4th Streets, Yankton, Dakota Territory.

The 1901 Yankton City Directory lists the same establishment at the same location as "Stier & Ferdinand" 310 Broadway.

While we are not certain of the date that Joseph Ferdinand formed a partnership with William Stier, we think it was in the late 1870's.

When William Stier died, Joseph Ferdin- ander became the sole owner and proprietor. His three sons, Frank, Joe and Art helped him in the market from time to time. Joseph’s health became a factor, and by 1911, he was in such poor health, he was unable to work and remained confined to his home until his death in 1925.

On January 23, 1912, he entered into an agreement with Joseph Maierhuser for the sale of his market which was then known as "Broadway Meat Market" and also "Joseph Ferdinand Proprietor of Broadway Meat Market".

Arthur Ferdinand, Joseph’s son, worked in the market for Mr. Maierhuser until the 1930’s when the shop was closed.

In the early years of the business, Joseph Ferdinand also operated a slaughter house in connection with his meat market. The slaughter house was located along the old bottom road west of Yankton, along the Missouri River. Today, the road is known as Highway 52. It was about two miles out of Yankton on the south side of the bottom road. It was here that the live cattle were taken for slaughter and butchering. The meat was then taken, by horse drawn wagon, to the meat market, where it was cut to the customer’s order. Since there was no mechanical refrigeration, the meat was stored in half and quarter carcasses, hung by large hooks, suspended from iron racks attached to the ceiling and walls. These, within a large insulated room or ice box, was cooled by ice, which had previously been cut during the winter ice harvest time. The ice was usually dumped into special doors that opened into the ice box and allowed the cool air to circulate throughout the room.

In the 1970’s and 1890’s, a brick wholesale business was done with the steamboats furnishing meat and other provisions for their galleys.

Meat was also supplied to local residents, restaurants, travelers, immigrants and others passing through Yankton.

In looking over some of the old market invoices of the early 1900’s, which are still extant, we find some interesting things, there are many well known names of early Yankton area residents, who had accounts with Mr. Ferdinand. The prices, too, are very low according to our 1986 standards. Pork chops, 25 lb; Beef, 30 lb; Steak, 15 lb; veal 20 lb; bacon 15 lb; lard 25 lb; ham 40 lb; hamburger 10 lb; polish sausage 15 $1.50; and headcheese 10 lb. Usually soup bones and meat “for the dog” was given free to the customers. Today, in a modern super

by Bernie Hunhoff

by Leon Scobllic

IN EARLY "HUM MILL" B50

SOUTH DAKOTA MAGAZINE B51

Yankton is the home base for South Dakota Magazine, a publication founded in March of 1985 by Bernie and Myrna Hunhoff. The magazine publishes articles about South Dakota history, interesting people and places, poetry, photos and illustrations.

The magazine is distributed throughout South Dakota through news stands — and throughout the world by mail subscriptions.

Ironically, Yankton was also the birthplace of an earlier South Dakota Monthly, a similar publication. It was edited by Don Robinson, who later began the South Dakota Historical Society and became one of Dakota's foremost historians. He later sold the magazine and it ceased publication in about 1957.

The Hunhoffs, who also founded the weekly Missouri Valley Observer and published it until 1985 before selling it, look forward to many years of promoting South Dakota through their new publication.

by Bernie Hunhoff
market, the meat comes to them from packing plant cut into convenient size roasts, serving portions, etc. The prices, of course, reflect today's modern concept of life in the United States in the 20th century.

by Donald J. Binder

TELECOMMUNICATIONS IN YANKTON

Submitted by Northwestern Bell Telephone Company

When Yankton was founded, in 1858, the early settlers carried on communication by horses and oxen and by friendly Indian runners. Most news from the outside world was delivered by pioneers traveling through or settling in the new city. Later came the steamboat, the stagecoach, the telegraph and the railway trains; each contributed to the ease and reliability of communications.

The first telephone company in Yankton, the SouthEastern Dakota Telephone Company, was organized in 1883 by the following men: F.L. VanTassel, M. Taylor, J.T. Sargent, Bartlett Tippett, George C. Scogal, C.J.B. Harris, J.C. Morrison. A telephone office was established at the headquarters of The Dakota Herald, local newspaper, located on the west side of Capitol Street. Will Burns was named manager and Mattie McMinn (Mrs. John Trues) became the first operator. Among the company's first subscribers were: J.C. McVey, W.H. McVey, Robert Burns, Euceliora Mills, McKinney & Scogal Bank, C.J. Carney Grocery and the First National Bank.

In 1888 the SouthEastern Dakota Telephone Company was formed with a capital of $40,000 for its franchise and a year later they sold out for $90,000 to the Erie Telephone & Telegraph Company, a Cleveland, Ohio based company. The Erie company immediately built a long distance line from Yankton to Sioux City and at Elk Point extended that connection to Sioux Falls.

Soon after, the Yankton telephone exchange was sold to the Northwestern Telephone Company of Chicago, Illinois. This company maintained headquar- ters at the same location on Capitol Street for several years and then moved to the third floor of the old Union Block on the southeast corner of Third and Walnut Streets. N.E. Gibbons was the first company manager and Mrs. Ethel Milliken (Mrs. L.A. Wyman) was employed as the first operator.

By the late 1980's, the independent telephone companies had acquired considerable impetus in the area. In 1902, following a controversy concerning telephone rates, several business organizations the Yankton Telephone Company to provide local phone service in competition with the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company. Principle organizers were: Fred Schaefer, G.W. Roberts, W.H. Edmonds, F.L. VanTassel, C.H. Billon, Darwin Cribb and W.H. Cribb. The Yankton Telephone Company opened an office on the east side of Fourth Street on the northeast corner of Fourth and Walnut Streets. (Note: This building was moved in 1925 to 1511 N. Douglas Avenue to make room for a filling station.) Mr. VanTassel was the first manager of the new company. In 1904 Mr. Gibbons resigned his position as Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company manager to take over the management post for the Yankton Telephone Company. E.M. Quirk replaced him as the "Bell" manager.

In May 1903 a third company, the Independ- ent Telephone Company, was incorporated by many of the same people who owned the Yankton Telephone Company. This new company was organized for the expansion of long distance and rural service in the area. The Independent Telephone Company shar- ed offices with the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company in the First National Bank Building.

In December 1908 the Yankton Telephone Company purchased the local property of the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company. Because the Northwestern company planned to continue providing the commu- nity with long distance service, they retained their switchboard and all telephone instru- ments and continued to maintain their long distance lines.

In 1909 the Yankton Telephone Company completed their first major service improv- ement program, replacing the magneto phones with a new common battery system. With this new system, telephone users no longer needed to use a crank on the phone to ring the operator. When the telephone receiv- er was lifted, a light appeared on the oper- ator's switchboard, alerting that a telephone user needed assistance. The new switchboard was installed by C.A. Sweet, an installer for the Dean Switchboard Company. After this job was completed, he was retained as manager for the Yankton Telephone Company.

The South Dakota State Telephone Company was organized in 1917, with the follow- ing incorporators: M.E. Lawley, L.A. Beal, Bruce, secretary and treasurer; F.B. Lynch, W.L. Bruce and Howard Warner, directors. This new company bought out the Yankton Telephone Company that same year. The first local South Dakota State Telephone Company office was located in the basement of the First National Bank. After additional exchanges were pur- chased, however, the office was moved to Sioux Falls.

Shortly before the Yankton Telephone Company sold its properties, Johnny John- son was named manager, replacing Sweet who had moved to Redfield. After the South Dakota State Telephone Company took over the exchange, M.U. Ulrickson was named manager and acting wire chief. Johnson was retained as lineman or assistant manager.

In October 1912 the South Dakota State Telephone Company sold all its properties to the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company for a consideration of $840,000. Then, in January 1921, the Northwestern Telephone Exchange Company and the Nebraska Telephone Company merged with the Nebraska Telephone Company, which had been established on December 9, 1920 when the Iowa Telephone Company changed its corporate name.

In the years that have followed, North- western Bell has completed a number of telephone service improvement and expansion programs to make phonning easier and more convenient for Yankton telephone users.

Yankton telephones were converted to dial service in May 1922. Upon completion of this program, telephone users no longer had to go through the operator when placing local calls; they simply dialed the party they wished to talk to. The move classified this town as an innovator. The same trend held true in January 1946 when Northwestern Bell offered "direct distance dialing" — DDD, and again in March 1972 when Yankton became one of the first South Dakota towns to have available "direct assisted calling" and "911" Emergency dialing. Other services intro- duced in March 1972 were "automated num- ber identification" on direct dial long distance calls, Touch-Tone service and "dial tone first" service at coin phones. The new central office equipment and telephone company personnel were located in a new North- western Bell building at 311 W. 12th Street. Then, in March 1975, Yankton be- came the first Northwestern Bell exchange in the state to utilize modular telephone jacks and sets. Other recent service improvements include the elimination of eight-party rural lines in 1976 and the introduction of "Calling Card" service in 1982. This last service enables Calling Card users to input their card number and complete Calling Card calls from Touch-Tone phones without operator interv- ention.

Northwestern Bell was owned, until Jan- uary 1, 1984, by the American Telephone & Telegraph Company. As a result of the court- directed Bell System divestiture, Northwestern Bell has been divided into two companies, Westgroup and Eastgroup and located in Denver. Some of the rules for the company have changed, i.e. Northwestern Bell Telephone Company is no longer permiss- ed to provide telephone sets and may not provide service outside of its designated areas (LATAs). A lot of basic things about the company's service in Yankton, however, remain the same. One "constant" in Northwestern's business relationship with Yankton customers. The following em- ployees, located in Yankton, are responsible for service in this area: Wayne Anderberg; Duke Booth; Billy Chatterly, Jr.; Jacqueline Duncum; Vern Eaton; Robert Haf- rick; Joseph Hanten; Clifford Harms; Lloyd Herriein; Marvin Jueden; Joseph Matte- creek; Frank Manzocco; Larry Miller; Charles Mutzig; Lyle Nelson; John Silver- nall; Alfred Ulmer.

by Sandi Watson

THE UNITED COMMERCE TRAVELERS

A Fraternal Benefit Society was organized in Columbus, Ohio, in 1888 by eight saloonmen; who started a fund so to have the money and not be slaves to drink. A shrewd man realized they were bound to be tied to the bottle; he promised if they would not drink he would give them $1,000. The Orphans Fund was established.

United Commercial Travelers came to Yankton County when Circuit Court #384 was instituted Jul 1st, 1911. Yankton, South Dakota under the jurisdiction of Minnesota, Dakota and North Dakota Supreme Court Council #384 was the basis of Yankton County Council #384 was the basis of Yankton, South Dakota. In 1911 the Grand Jurisdictional Convention was called including the one at Yankton, name of the council here was the Dakota and Nebraska Supreme Court Council #384.

A Fraternal Benefit Society was formed in Columbia, Ohio, in 1898 by eight traveling salesmen; who started a fund so as to assist any of their members suffering an accident and couldn't work could receive benefits from this fund. For many years only traveling salesmen traveling by train carrying a sample of their wares were eligible to become members of the order. It was amusing how the membership grew so rapidly back in those days without the benefit of automobile, telephone, radio etc. Also a Widow and Orphans Fund was established.


In 1911 the Grand Jurisdiction of South Dakota was instituted with eight councils including the one at Yankton. In 1934 the name of the council here was changed from Cement City Council #384 to Yankton Council #384.


Honorary Past Grand Councilors have been conferred on the following Yankton members who served on the Grand Council Executive Board 6 years: Charles T. Long - 1916, G.N. Pollard - 1917, L.H. Kwobloch - 1925, Daniel Stoeplager - 1931, Thomas Thompson - 1936, Charles Richardson - 1962, Frank E. Schwartz - 1963. In 1988 Yankton Council will host the 75th Annual Grand Council Session. March 25, 1985, as I lay in a Sacred Heart Hospital bed, I learned that my Doctor's (Michael McVay) grandfather, J.C. McVay, a charter member of Council #384, was manager of the Yankton Cement Plant and was instrumental in promoting the original name "Cement City Council #384." He was the grandfather of my Dr. Michael McVay.

by Frank K. Schuls

VALLEY STATE BANK

One Valley Plaza

It was determined that indeed there was a need for another bank in the community of Yankton and in April of 1962, the Comptroller of the Currency approved the application for the Charter of the Valley State Bank of Yankton, South Dakota. Articles of incorporation were filed by Erling Haage, Chester Loken and G.D. Hansen, all Sioux Falls bankers; Dr. Wallace Arneson, Sioux Falls, H.G. Mosby, Harrisburg banker; Dan Stoeplager, Fred H. Leach and Edwin J. Whitlock, all of Yankton.

The structure of the new institution consisted of $150,000 in common stocks, $100,000 in surplus funds and $50,000 in profits, making a total capitalization of $200,000. The Bank was a member of the Federal Reserve System and insured by Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The banking institution occupied 3,750 square feet of floor space and featured a setting designed along modified contemporary lines.

A formal opening ceremonies at Yankton’s new Valley State Bank was Friday, October 5, 1962 and they included the formal presentation of a certificate of authority by Oscar Bros, State Superintendent of Banks. Erling Haage of Sioux Falls, was named President of the new bank. Charles Peterson and Arlan Duncan of Yankton, and Robert Herden of Sioux Falls, all three experienced in the banking field, were named Cashier and Assistant Cashiers, respectively. Susan Jen- sen was Drive-in Bank teller and bookkeeper. Original Bank Directors were: Erling Haage, President and board Chairman, Dan Stoeplager, Chester Loken, Milford Van- derhue and Charles Petersen.

The bank continued to grow under the leadership of the Haage family. On May 14, 1985, the Valley State Bank was purchased by First National of Nort- haka, Inc. John R. Lauritzen, Chairman of the Omaha organization, wanted to establish a credit card operation in the state of South Dakota and through the insight of Governor William Janklow this came about.

This led to the need to construct a new facility for the Valley State Bank and credit card operation. On March 16, 1984, plans were complete and the site ready for the groundbreaking ceremony. Arlene Duncan, who has been employed at the Valley State Bank since the first day of operations, was honored as the first to remove the first shovelful of dirt.

On March 14, 1985, the construction was complete. On that morning a ribbon cutting ceremony took place with Arlene Duncan cutting the ribbon and officially opening the new Valley State Bank facility. A two week grand opening continued for the Yankton Area.

The Bank directors and executive officers at this time are: William Henry, Chairman of the board and President, Keith H. Warr- man, director and Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer and Robert D. Clausen; and Executive Vice Presi- dent. In addition to the executive officers of the bank, the other directors are Wilbur Foss, Glen Davis; Yankton and James Doody of Omaha, Nebraska.

The new facility is a two story building consisting of 30,500 square feet. The building is highlighted with oak woodwork and com- plemented by a custom made water tower built by Guy Larson, a local craftsman. In order to preserve the heritage of Yankton and the State of South Dakota, the Bank commis- sioned a San Francisco artist by the name of Holton, Inc. to design a topographic depicting Yankton and the South Dakota area.

Due to the significant improvement that the Valley State Bank made in its location, the address of the bank became One Valley Plaza.

The Valley State Bank started with $300,000.00 in assets and currently has assets in excess of $86,000,000.00.

The Valley State Bank would like to thank the citizens of Yankton and surrounding areas for helping to become the institution that it has.

Through careful and prudent direction of
its officers and directors the bank will continue to grow and prosper in the community.

by Elizabeth Wright

VANDERHULLE MOVING & STORAGE, INC.

Vernon and Maybelle (Otoen) VanDerhule moved to Yankton in 1921 from a farm north of Volin, SD. At that time, Vernon went into business with Tyler Motor which lasted a short time before going broke.

Vernon went back to the farm for two years while Maybelle and son Milford and Maybelle’s sister, Carol Olson, stayed in Yankton. Maybelle started dressmaking to make ends meet.

When returning to Yankton, Vernon worked for the county helping build Highway 81 with horses and pull shovels.

Later in 1922, Vernon went to work for Yankton Gas Company and the family lived in a small block house next to the plant. During this time, the Yorktown Bridge was built so we had a front row seat.

In 1929, Vernon bought a Chevy truck from the Schutz Brothers and started VanDerhule Transfer. After 3 years he rented property at 2nd & Walnut from Schwenk and started the storage business along with his trucking operation. In 1936 the VanDerhule Transfer and Storage moved into a new warehouse at 100 Douglas where the operation operated until 1960.

Vernon passed away in 1942 and Milford and his mother operated the business for a year, then Ed and Carol Shuff came into the business to operate the Furniture Mart which had been started at the warehouse in 1941.

In 1960, the company purchased the Wilson Freight Depot and added 12,000 square feet storage space.

In 1970, Milford and DonEda retired and their two sons, Vernon (Skip) and Ross VanDerhule, and son-in-law, Gordon Brown, took over. In 1972, Ross left the business to go into business for himself.

This makes three generations of the VanDerhule family in the moving and storage business in Yankton.

by Milford VanDerhule

VETERINARY PROFESSION

In writing the history of the profession of Veterinary Medicine in Yankton county difficulty is encountered as to when it began. The earliest date of record has it that two veterinarians practiced in Yankton as early as 1908. They were a Dr. H.M. Halvison who practiced at 334 Douglas St. and a Dr. H.S. Matthews who practiced at 410 Pearl St. In those early years practice consisted mainly of the treatment of horses as that was the mainstay of our power on the farms and locomotion in the town. In 1921 there were 3 veterinarians on the scene. They were Dr. H.M. Halvison who practiced at 318 Pearl St., Dr. R.B. Adams who practiced at 716 12th St. E., and Dr. H.S. Matthews who practiced at 114 3rd St. E. By this time practice was expanded into cattle and the vaccination of hogs for hog cholera.

In 1918, Dr. A.A. Fosterman who had just returned from the army set up a practice at Utica, South Dakota. He practiced there a few years and then moved to Tyndall, South Dakota. He practiced there a few years and then moved to Tyndall, South Dakota for about 2 years and then returned to Utica. Dr. Fosterman was graduate of the Kansas City Veterinary College.

The next name to appear on the scene was Dr. H.D. Perry, a graduate of Iowa State College who came to Yankton about 1931. Dr. Perry practiced about 1 block east of Sacred Heart Hospital, Dr. H.D. Perry must be recognized as the first veterinarian to start a small animal clinic. He practiced at that location until the time of his retirement in the later 1960’s when he sold his practice to a Dr. James Eckerly.

In the 1940’s during World War II Dr. A.A. Fosterman moved from Utica, to Yankton and practiced from his home at the south end of Cedar St. Dr. Robin M. Hackeck graduated from Iowa State College of Veterinary Medicine in 1959 and set up practice from his home at 818 West 4th St. In 1964 Dr. Fosterman and Hackeck merged their practices and built a new building at 221 Cedar St. which consisted of a small animal hospital and a veterinary drug dispensary. Dr. Fosterman must be recognized as one of the first veterinarians to diagnose swine erysipelas in the United States. It was formerly thought that this was strictly a European disease. In 1963 Dr. Haceck bought Dr. Fosterman’s share of the practice and built a new facility ½ mile west of Yankton. In 1965 Dr. Richard Johansen joined Dr. Hackeck in practice. In about 1966 Dr. Donald Vestebee, a Minnesota graduate came into Dr. Hackeck’s employ and stayed approximately 5 years, after which he went to teach school at Kansas State College.

Vesteebee, a Dr. Leonard Foyeshen was employed and he worked in this practice about 2 years. In the early 1970’s, Dr. Darford Stoner an Iowa State University graduate purchased ½ interest in the practice. The Hackeck practice was then known as Veterinary Supply and Service. The years following included Dr. Susan Bebele, a Kansas graduate who practiced part time, then Dr. James Raatz, a graduate of Iowa State University who later left the practice to go to his home town in Nebraska. Following Dr. Raatz was Dr. Dane Balich, a graduate of Illinois who was employed by Drs. Hackeck & Stoner in 1981 to 1983. She then took up her own practice in Lincoln, Arkansas. In the summer of 1985, Dr. James Pajl, a graduate of Kansas was employed by Drs. Hackeck & Stoner and is still employed by them at the present time.

Dr. R.J. Buckman, a graduate of Iowa State College, who was raised in Gayville, South Dakota, came to practice at Yankton in 1955. His first practice was from his house at 910 Walnut, then to 1713 Capitol St. and later he opened a dispensary at 310 Cedar St. In the year 1975 he built a dispensary and small animal hospital at 801 Whiting Drive on East Hwy 50 at Yankton. Since that time, Dr. Raatz has become affiliated with Dr. Donald Lepp, an Illinois graduate in 1972 later joined by Dr. Bruce Tachau, a graduate of Iowa in 1974. Ken Schultz, a graduate of Kansas joined his practice in 1990. Following his departure was Dr. Michael Waad a graduate of Missouri State College in 1984.

Two long-time employees of WNA.

Standing L-R unidentified member certificate.

the historical facts we have available.

by Robin M. Hackeck

VNAx

VNAx was a homemaker.

Two long time employees of WNA.

Van Derhule Warehouse, 100 Douglas Street, built in 1933-36.
WNAX was a homemade transmitter developed by E.C. "Al" Madsen and E.O. Walsgreen licensed to broadcast commercially on November 9, 1922. About four years later the Yankton Seed and Nursery Company took over the operation, and broadcast, for a time, originated in the home of D.H. Gurney. In 1927 the station was moved to the Yankton Building, and the broadcast signal was beamed from an antenna suspended between two sixty-foot windmill towers.

In late 1943 WNAX started broadcasting from the world's tallest radio tower, as high as a 93 story building.

Live talent was the "sound" of WNAX in those early years into the 1950's. Names were legend: Lawrence Welt, Jimmy Dean, The Rosebud Kids, Happy Jack O'Malley and George B. German. Later the WNAX Bomber Band and many others became radio favorites and good friends throughout the region.

For several years Saturday nights found WNAX entertainers, announcers and engineers somewhere in the Dakotas, Minnesota, Iowa or Nebraska with a live broadcast of the Missouri Valley Barn Dance, sometimes returning to Yankton just a few hours before the Big Sunday Get-Together went on the air for a two-hour live broadcast.

When the world's tallest AM tower was completed in 1943, WNAX dedicated it to the Midwest farmer with these words: "In tribute to the typical Midwest farmer, who gave unstintingly of his time and labor, surmounted every obstacle and will continue on the same path that the world may be fed."

Midwest Farmer Days in 1942, 1944, and 1945 brought thousands to Yankton, as the typical Midwest farmer was chosen from the five-state region.

Among those present were many national dignitaries and network personalities. In 1960 WNAX sponsored the National Plowing Contest and Soil Conservation Field Days. Both presidential candidates made major addresses at the three day event. These are some of the highlights in the history of WNAX.

WNAX, the "Big Friend" radio station in Yankton, was left an orphan by a December 9, 1985 fire, and lived in two temporary homes since and is settled in its own brand new place.

The fire, which left WNAX homeless occurred December 9, 1985, at the 321 East Third Street location. The station broadcast for a month from its tower building on the old S.D. Highway 50, prior to moving into rooms at the Liberty.

The new WNAX building is located on S.D. Highway 50 east of Yankton.

by Ellen Tobin, Press & Dakota

(More Photos Follow)

L-R: Monk Lowry, George B. Corman, Mark Ballyeat, and unidentified man.

YAGGIE MILL

When I first became associate father, Robert Yaggie, in the grain business in the year 1927, we open the trade style of Farmers Elevator we had only nine bins in our elevat forced to buy barley, rye, and winter wheat, corn and oats. Soy not being raised yet in our area. " hard and grain prices were low. Grain checks were made payable to companies who had secured the hard times of the 1930’s. G

Farmers Elevator in 1938 — foreman Mills.
YAGGIE MILLS

When I first became associated with my father, Robert Yaggie, in the grain and coal business in the year 1927, we operated under the trade style of Farmers Elevator. Although we had only nine bins in our elevator, we were forced to buy barley, rye, spring wheat, winter wheat, corn and oats. Soybeans were not being raised yet in our area. Times were hard and grain prices were low. Many of the grain checks were made payable to insurance companies who had secured the land during the hard times of the 1930's. Gradually as prices improved and with the advent of 2-4-D, the land was redeemed by farmers and the insurance companies phased out of farming ownership.

One of the first pieces of machinery that we put in was an upright feed mixer. As every farm had a chicken flock, our big seller was chick starter, grower and egg mash. Hereafter, we mixed our feed with a scoop shovel. As I was going to Yankton College from 1931 to 1934, I knew that each Saturday evening my first job was to mix feed in this manner. We gradually added hog and cattle feed to our operation with the new mixers.

We soon outgrew the small area where the mixer stood, and we built a complete feed mill on an area east of our grain elevator. We were the first in the state to put in a corn dryer for a country elevator operation and added two more mixers and a pellet operation with crunching equipment. We purchased two oat hullers and installed a boiler and a larger roller so that we could make steam rolled oats.

We changed the name of our operation to Yaggie Mills which more clearly reflected our operation.

I do not wish to imply that all these improvements were done at one time, but were done over a period of 32 years in which I was associated with the business.

In the early 1940's, we went out of the coal business and devoted our energies to the manufacture and distribution of feed. Our new feed plant was completed in time for us to make shipments of cracked corn, scratch grains and rolled oats to points all over the eastern and southern states of the United States. This was brought about by the fact that the country was at war and under the Office of Price Administration, we were limited in the mark-up we could put on straight grain shipments, but by performing another operation on the grain, we could make some additional earnings. I'm sure that this did not endear us to the people to whom we shipped, but it did work out to our advantage. The biggest month we ever had, we shipped 100 carloads of sacked feed.

I would not by any means infer that we did not have problems that affected our income. For example, in September of 1947 we had a disastrous fire of unknown origin that completely gutted our main feed mill. After the insurance settlement, we found that we could not completely replace all of the equipment and the building to its former site. It was at this time that we purchased the Great Northern icehouse located at the foot of Third Street and moved the rolled oats operation into that building. This proved to be a good move and that plant is still in operation in this year of 1985 although the new owners have made a good many improvements to the facility.

In February of 1948, we suffered a decline in the grain and livestock markets that caused us a substantial financial loss. This was followed by a similar decline in 1949 with more disastrous results.

About this time, Mr. Al Baber called me to his Sioux City office and asked if I would be interested in making a product called Vis Vita which was a high vitamin product and antibiotics carried in ingredients such as fishmeal, distillers solubles, dried whey and soybean oil meal. He had no milling facilities of his own so I was more than happy to take on this additional business on a custom basis. Mr. Baber of Sioux City, Iowa, was a merchandising genius and we set up the proper equipment for this operation in the Stuempkagel building on the second story. As the business grew, we acquired the O.J. MacGrocery building directly across of our elevator fronting on Mulberry Street where we continued to make this product until we sold our business.

About this time I became interested in irrigating land and had the first well drilled on land we owned six miles east of Yankton. Since the management of Yaggie Mills was in the capable hands of Edward Holshouser, officer manager, and William Nooney, the retail store manager, I felt free to go to the University of Nebraska for a short course in irrigation. This proved to be invaluable to me for later expansion which we still have today along with other improvements for water application.

In the early 1950's, we instituted "Appreciation Days" where we treated our customers and friends to tavern sandwiches and coffee and also took advantage of booking seeds, feeds and fertilizer at reduced prices for future delivery. This proved to be a good business operation as we gave away these prices of substantial value that brought new customers to our door.

We also had a demonstration pen where on various occasions we fed chickens, hogs and in one instance, two head of cattle. It was always interesting to watch our customers go to this pen to determine weight gain and rate of growth.

Over a period of years the trucking industry took over more and more of our grain and feed shipments. Therefore, the Chicago Northwestern Railroad abandoned its line into Yankton and as we were on their land which was leased to us, we were forced to purchase the lots where our buildings stood.

As the trucks became larger, our scale adjacent to our office was no longer adequate to handle the larger semi-trailers. It was at this time that we put in a 50 ton 70 foot deck adjacent to the elevator which had electronic controls leading to the office. This gave us a
YANKTON AUTO SUPPLY

The Yankton Auto Salvage and Supplies started in 1925 at 309 Broadway with Harry Raskin as owner. Opening day was July 4th when a truck driven by Lesie Fish arrived with a load of merchandise from the Ben Fish Store in Sioux City, Iowa. Junk cars were bought and dismantled with the usable parts going into the store and the iron scrapped in the yard where the old bus depot now stands. Here motors were taken apart and parts put in bins behind the store and marked with the make and year of the car. This process was discontinued when World War II broke out, most of the cars didn’t have safety glass as we do now so there was always a lot of glass to replace. This had to be done either in front or in back of the store as there was no place inside. The men often came inside to warm their hands.

The store was open every day until 6 p.m. and until 9 p.m. on Saturdays. Sunday hours were 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

There was a stairway and door in front of the store leading to the basement that people had to walk around especially when batteries and mufflers, etc., were unloaded down a chute into the basement.

When Mr. Raskin leased the Valentine Building to the south of his store, a new front for both buildings was added and an elevator installed (operated by a rope) which could be used to distribute freight to both floors upstairs and also to the basement.

The future of the Auto Salvage was jeopardized in 1963 when fire destroyed the Elde Cafe and Stetson Hotel to the south. Excellent performance by the Yankton and State Hospital fire departments contained the fire to only the hotel and the store suffered only slight smoke and water damage. As the three outside routes and the local business expanded, additional space was needed, so Harry purchased the former Cimpl market building a couple of doors north, to use as a warehouse.

In 1974 Mr. Raskin retired and sold his business to Frank Thierman, and the name was changed to the Yankton Auto Supply.

Two years later Mr. Thierman purchased the Yankton Canvas building (formerly the K & R grocery) adjacent to the Cimpl building and moved the stores inventory 3 doors north, continuing to use the old store as a warehouse.

Now vans were purchased for the routes along with a town delivery started and a complete machine shop and radiator shop added.

In 1983 Yankton Auto Supply was sold to Studebakers Inc., a Sioux Falls based company including 19 other parts stores. Flyn Williams became the executive officer in charge of the Yankton store.

YANKTON COMMUNITY LIBRARY B61

The institution we know today as the Yankton Community Library probably had its beginnings in a legal local law office. An item in the May 19, 1968 Yankton Dakotan reads: “A Territorial Library has been started in Yankton. M. Hoyt will take supervision.”

For the first 20 years of its existence, the library depended on gifts of books and magazines from women’s organizations and other members of the public. Additional funds were raised for the library’s operation through benefit such as teas and public lectures. In this manner, the library slowly grew in size and importance.

The library began to receive dependable, steady public support only at the turn of the century. As he did with hundreds of other small American towns, Andrew Carnegie offered a gift of $12,500 for a library building, provided that the City of Yankton would provide a site for the building and funds for the furnishings and continued maintenance of the library. The Yankton city fathers agreed, and the Carnegie Library was erected in 1902-03 at the corner of 4th and Capitol Streets.

On the evening of October 8, 1902, the new building was opened to the public. F.L. Van Tassel, who was principally responsible for securing the Carnegie gift, was appointed by the mayor to the first board of library trustees, with William H. Edmunds and Joseph Pier as secretary and as the other board members. They in turn selected Mrs. Jessie Bartholomew, as librarian. Her appointment was crucial to the library’s future, since she served as librarian and later historian for the next 50 years.

As the years passed, Yankton grew, and the library grew with it. Major building renovations were undertaken in 1957 and 1958 to ensure that the building continued to serve Yankton well. Mrs. Bartholomew was instrumental in maintaining a collection of Yankton’s historical documents, and she was aided in her task of keeping the library’s reading material current with continued gifts from community members.

By 1966, it was evident that a new library facility would be needed to meet Yankton’s growing needs. Yankton voters approved a 2 mill levy at that time to build a new library.

A survey of community needs was undertaken, and on March 25, 1968, the Yankton City Commission resolved that a new build-
YANKTON

LIBRARY

B61

YANKTON LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKET

B62

YANKTON

COMMUNITY LIBRARY

By Shirley Christensen

In 1968 Yankton Dakotan reads: 1 Library has been started in Hoyt will take supervision." 15 years of its existence, the reader on gifts of books and in women's organizations and of the public. Additional need for the library's operation fits such as teas and public via manner, the library's slow ad importance.

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ing should be built with matching federal funds.

On February 10, 1973, the new Yankton Community Library opened its doors for the first time at its present location at 5th and Walnut streets, under the direction of Mrs. Vivian Audk, Dr. T. H. Sattler, Mrs. Norine Nyberg, Dr. D.C. Dandinger, and Mrs. Reba Hansenberger as trustees, and Mrs. Lucile Walensky as librarian. The new building, named Yankton Community Library re- flected the support of the community behind the library and its services.

Today, the Yankton Community Library provides services never dreamed of by Yank ton's founders or Mr. Carnegie. A complete Yankton history collection, including micro filmed copies of all Yankton newspapers and census records, now shares space with a Commodore computer. The library's meeting room provides free space for community activities. Projectors, record albums and cassette tapes provide a greater access to information, as does access to materials in other libraries throughout the nation. Lib rary story hours introduce children to books, and a regular newspaper columnist and book discussions provide adults with ongoing information about books.

The future promises to be as wide and wonderful as the library itself, since computers will provide instant information on a scale as yet undreamed of. But it is the people of the community who use the library that are the most important factor in Yankton's future, as they have been throughout the past.

By Connie Hollorf

YANKTON LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKET

Yankton Livestock Sales Company about 1900.

Interior, Yankton Livestock Sales Company during an auction in 1978.

"Oldest Sale in the Two Dakotas"

Marketing began with small pens on the Fred Dralle property east on old Highway 50. Feeder pigs were bought and sold. The time frame was the 1930's.

In about 1927, in east Yankton, on railroad property, Armour and Company built a direct hog buying station. This closed in 1950. For a short time these pens were used to sell feeder pigs. Those in charge jumped from pen to pen and pigs were sold to the buyers by the head. Bookkeeping was a simple procedure, with James Lloyd in charge.

In 1930, Harry Slaughter began the Auction Market on this railroad property. Legend has it that Harry Slaughter was credited saying, "The farmers are broke! I am broke! There is need for a market, and I will get my commission, and the farmers will receive their money for what they sell. It should work for both of us!" Selling livestock the auction way became a reality. The auction building was built on railroad property.

Jack Hipple was the auctioneer. Clyde Vaughn helped. Ivan Lothrop was clerk and bookkeeper in the ring. Nels Callesen was the bookkeeper in the office. Nels also financed the money paid to the workers. Dr. A.M. Halverson was the veterinarian in charge of inspection. A cafe, in a small frame building, adjoining the auction, was opened and run by Jack and Mildred Balliff. The office was in another small frame building.

In about 1955 there was an outbreak of anthrax and the sale was closed for several weeks.

Horse sales were also a part of the business. Each horse had to be guaranteed to hitch and had to be treated for wind. The horses were hitched to a dray cart and driven from the barn to the Meridian Garage on Burleigh Street. Passing these tests, they could be sold. Jess Kendall was in charge of most of the horses.

Hogs were bought direct as well as by auction. Fitological Armour and Company was the big buyer. Feeder pigs became a part of the auction. Dick Hamms from New Jersey, who could neither read nor write, would contact James Lloyd by telephone, three or four times a year, to reserve a room for his stay in Yankton. Feeder pigs were vaccinated by Dr. Howard Perry and shipped to New Jersey by carloads to be finished as garbage fed hogs. 3300 pigs were vaccinated and sent to New Jersey in one such transaction.

Cattle were held in numbered pens, sold, and delivered to the same pen number. This method caused confusion. The selling procedures were slow and it was very common to have the sales last until 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning. Slim Wester from Orange City, Iowa, was one of the early auctioneers. Lew Van Osdell was the first weighmaster.

In the early 1940's Harry Slaughter lost his lease with the railroad. This forced the move of the auction building, cafe, and office buildings to what was still all farm ground north on Highway 81. New pens were built along with loading and unloading chutes. Enrie Weller and Ed Evans from Nebraska were early day auctioneers at this new location.

New building, Yankton Livestock Sales Company taken in 1978.
The Yankton Mall was built in 1968 and 1969 by Woff Construction of Yankton. The mall was originally called the Broadway Plaza Shopping Center. The original owners included several local investors called the Yankton Corporation.

Stories first began to locate in the mall in late 1969 and early 1970. The facility's Grand Opening was held March 18, 1970.

The original tenants were Montgomery Ward, Red Owl, TG&Y, White Drug, Singer, White House Cafe, Williams Fabrics and Fashions and One Hour Martinizing.

John Gregg, of Yankton, was on the board of directors of the Yankton Corporation.

On August 30, 1971, the National Bank of South Dakota, Sioux Falls, was appointed as receiver in place of the Yankton Corporation. New York Life requested the receivership, pending its foreclosure action against the corporation.

At a November 29, 1971 foreclosure sale, New York Life made a bid for the mall. The insurance company was the only bidder on the property and paid for it with a certified check.

The Yankton Corporation, by law, was allowed one year to redeem the property, but Gregg said the investors were unable to do so. "We just couldn't make a go of it," he said.

New York Life, which had operated the mall through a management company, sold it in 1973 to Warren Cowgill, of Fargo, North Dakota. It was the first of many transactions to follow.

Shortly after purchasing the property, Cowgill sold it to three investors in Sioux City, Iowa, headed by Fred Davenport. The Davenport group sold it to Les Nelson, of Glenwood, Iowa, in the latter part of 1980.

Nelson built the addition onto the mall that now houses TG&Y, J.C. Penney and other stores. He sold it in late 1980 to Armecon, a Dutch corporation from the Netherlands.

Armecon operated the mall through an Atlanta, Georgia, management firm, before selling the mall to Yankton Mall Associates on December 31, 1984. The Netherlands corporation is involved in the process of unloading several of their U.S. investments, because of the strong dollar overseas.

Yankton Mall Associates is headed by Milwaukee real estate brokers Wayne Weg- enkle and Gordon Johnson, Jr. The Wisconsin partnership purchased the mall from Arme- con for a contract for deed agreement.

American State Bank was granted as temporary receiver.

The mall contains a high of 45 rental outlets in 1980. In January of 1986 there were 39 outlets.

Mr. Martin is the new mall manager. Martin was one of more than 40 to apply for the Yankton mall's job. His former job was with Dial Enterprises, of Omaha, Nebraska. Mr. Martin moved to Yankton in April 1986 and advertised for a manager.

by permission of Brian Hunhoff of the P&D

Yankton Produce Company Refrig

Yankton Produce Company trucks routes for poultry and eggs.
THE YANKTON PRODUCE COMPANY

In 1932 the Yankton Produce Company was started by two friends, Seth Johannsen and Earl Batske. They had one truck and a few poultry coops. They rented a small garage and bought poultry and eggs locally and also ran a Plate line route. After about a year they decided it was not making enough to support two families. They divided the equipment and Mr. Batske and family moved back to his former home at Norfolk, Nebraska.

I do not know the exact year but the Yankton Produce Co. name was registered at the Yankton County Courthouse, with partners listed Seth Johannsen and Myrle Johannsen. At that time we were located in an old building back of the bakkery at Second and Douglas. I was in the office paying the customers and keeping the books.

The building at 301 Douglas was for sale. We bought it and moved to that location. It was an old two story building, and at one time had been a "Jewellery" store. The building was on a Great Northern sidetrack. We shipped a few cars to New York during the holiday season. Most of our poultry was delivered to Sioux City and Onawa, Iowa. The connection at Onawa was C.A. Swanson & Sons of Omaha, Nebraska. Seth wanted to dress poultry. He drew all of the plans for the processing plant with some expert help and advice of some employees of the Swanson Company.

There was no basement in the building, so it had to be dug out. The basement was the picking, packing and refrigeration department. The first floor, the buying and receiving, and the third floor was the packing station. We had a large refrigerated trailer and every pound of poultry we dressed was sold and delivered to C.A. Swanson and Sons at Omaha, Neb.

We also candled eggs. They were packed, graded and were usually delivered to storage at St. Joseph, Missouri, again under contract to C.A. Swanson & Sons of Omaha.

The business prospered until the late 1950's. The poultry volume dropped and we had to discontinue dressing. We should have closed then but Seth refused to give up. But by 1963 hens were four cents a pound, and I believe eggs were around ten cents a dozen, impossible to make even a few cents. The Yankton Produce Company closed in Feb. 1962. The corner 301 Douglas was later sold to the city of Yankton and they removed the building. The lot is now a city parking lot.

by Myrle Johannsen

YANKTON REXALL DRUG CENTER

The two founding pharmacists of what is now known as Yankton Rexall Drug Center, Inc. George Paulsen and Leon Farrell, had a goal. That goal was to serve the health needs of the growing community of Yankton in 1923.

Today, in 1985, the goal is the same although the owners, location and types of prescriptions have changed. Registered pharmacists and owners Philip J. Dohn, Conley Stanage and Kenneth B. Jones are dedicated to those same needs - the needs of their patrons.

Currently they are serving the needs of Yankton and many of the smaller outlying communities. It isn't uncommon for the pharmacists to fill an order for a fourth or fifth generation family at the drug center located at 109 West 3rd St.

But Yankton Rexall Drug Center hasn't always offered customers the convenience of a bookstore, gift shop, bridal registry and a liquor store.

Let's step back in time and find out who operated the early pharmacy in Yankton.
YANKTON SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

Yankton, South Dakota

There were 12 citizens of Yankton, Dakota Territory, that foresaw the need for a method of financing the dwelling needs of the settlers.

These men were E.A. Bruce, F.B. Lynch, J.M. Hammond, E.I. Lynch, E.H. Van Antwerp, C.J. Warner, J.T. Shaw, D.N. Gross, E.C. Dudley, D.E. Sampson, A.E. Cobby and J.T. Andrews. As they were businessmen in the growing community, they probably knew that to keep people in Yankton, it would be necessary and desirable for these folks to have shelter, preferably that shelter that they could own for themselves.

An application was made to the Dakota Territory officials for a charter to operate a building and loan association. This same method of home ownership had been established in 1831 in Frankford, Pennsylvania, a Philadelphia suburb, by a village lamplighter named Comly Rich. His association was patterned along procedures used in England, called building societies. It was a mutual association of people to finance the building of their own homes from the combined savings of people.

November of 1885 saw the charter issued by Dakota Territory to Yankton Building and Loan Association to pursue this endeavor of providing home ownership and savings. On February 1, 1886 the doors were opened for business. During the first six months, three loans were made. The first was to Gottfried and Mary Borgi for a home on the northwest corner of 6th and Walnut Street, in the amount of $700. The second loan was to Mathias and Katie Steheli for $800 on the property at 714 Walnut Street. The third loan of $900 to Thomas K. and Lillie Stengle on residential property situated on the northeast corner of the 10th and Locust Street.

The original proposals of savings and home ownership has continued to be the business of Yankton Building and Loan Association since the very beginning. Even when the offices of the association were destroyed in the Union Block fire on November 17, 1901, these offices were immediately supplied to the Yankton community.

When the federal guarantee of savings deposits was enacted by Congress in 1933, a result of the bank closings of the Great Depression, Yankton Building and Loan Association applied for membership in the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation, and it today continues this protection for its savings customers.

In January, 1949, the name of the association was changed from Yankton Building & Loan Association to Yankton Savings & Loan Association. That same year, September, the offices were moved into their newly constructed building at 210 3rd Street. Then in 1969 this building was expanded to accommodate the steadily growing business of the association by acquiring the property immediately to the west and remodeling to join the two into one modern office space. Again, this, too, was outgrown and needed to be modified to keep up with the changing world such as drive up windows, night deposit facilities and free parking areas.

The Yankton Savings & Loan Association grew, as the modern facility now used by the association at the northeast corner of the 2nd and Cedar Streets.


Yankton Suzuki

One of Yankton County's newest business establishments is Yankton Suzuki. It is located across from M-Tren Industries, on Highway 50 east of Yankton. The building is the one that has housed, Down Beat, Barrett Of Wm. and Harriss of Yankton. Yankton Suzuki sell and service motorcycles and all vehicles (ATVs). They handle Suzuki motorcycles and Suzuki and Tiger ATVs. They service most makes of foreign motorcycles and ATVs.

Tom Cawach is the proprietor. He has ten years experience in servicing motorcycles and ATVs, prior to starting his own establishment. In September of 1984 Tom, and his father Jim Cawach, bought the Suzuki stock and franchise from Midwest Honda-Suzuki.

YANKTON PHYSICIAN

Any attempt to describe the history of the physicians and practice in a few short paragraphs is a sketchy chronology at best. It would be difficult to catch a flavor of the medical community's inevitable evolution despite theove importance on others.

Dr. Justus Townsend was the practicing physician in Yankton, c. 1860. He was a charter member of the Yankton City Council in 1865. In 1867, the Indian Expedition and Illinois in 1868. Dr. William J. Stock was the first physician to the Yankton. Another early nonpractitioners was Walter A. Borighart, State Agent to the Yankton in 1861 to 1865. Dr. Abraham V. Todd was the first to actively practice advertised in the July 28, 1867, Dakota. "Doctor Van Odell" to inform the citizens of the nearby vicinity that he understood System, can stop the toothache, etc. Dr. Van Odell was a surgeon of Corporal in Yankton. He left the military of medicine in 1864, Dr. J.O. Loomis arrived in 1864, it was noted Dakota that "no one is sick or ever intends to be but the idea of being cheated out of a dollar is advertised and advertised land warrants."

by E.W. Boyles

YANKTON SUZUKI

by Mrs. Gerald A. Edwards

YANKTON PHYSICIAN

by E.W. Boyles

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across, as Secretary over e been F.B. Lynch, E.H. Van V. Burns, C.S. Savage, S.S. 'M. Paulson, Louis A. Boyles, and R.E. Bremnick. 

Savings & Loan Association is 100 years of service to the and we are looking forward to an of service to customers for some financing in the Yankton

by E.W. Boyles

YANKTON'S PHYSICIANS

Any attempt to describe the complete history of the physicians and their medical practice in a few short paragraphs is purely a sketchy chronology at best can only the medical community. The inevitable exclusion of some does not bestow more importance on others.

Dr. Justus Townsend was the first practicing physician in Yankton, coming here in early 1860. He evidently was not busy with his practice as he was Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, Auditor and organized the first Sabbath School. He was secretary of the first Legislature, Chairman of the Union Party and trustees of the newly formed town of Yankton. Dr. Townsend left Yankton in November, 1862, to accompany the Indian Expedition and returned to Illinois in 1863. Dr. William Jerny, personal physician to Abraham Lincoln in Springfield, Illinois, was the first Governor of Dakota Territory. He did not practice medicine in Yankton. Another early practicing physician was Walter A. Burleigh. He was United States Agent to the Yankton Indians from 1861 to 1865. Dr. Abraham Von Oselde was the first to actively practice medicine. He advertised in the July 29, 1862, Weekly Dakota. "Doctor Osdell would respect the citizens of Yankton and vicinity that he understands the Indian System, can stop the toothache, take poison out of snake bites, cure cancer, etc." He was elected to the council of the Legislature Assembly in 1866. Dr. Von Osdell moved to Kansas in 1869. Dr. Frank Wilson came next in 1863 as surgeon of Company B stationed in Yankton. He left the military in 1864 and practiced medicine in Yankton. In May of 1864, Dr. J.O. Loomis arrived from Syracuse. In July of 1864, it was noted in the Weekly Dakota that "no one is sick in the vicinity or ever intends to be but the doctor has no idea of being cheated out of an honest living and advertises land warrants for sale." Dr. Loomis had advertised that he was in the land business. Next to come were Doctors Livingstone and Vanderhole who stayed a short time. Dr. J.B. Van Velser commenced practice in Yankton in May, 1869. In November of 1869, Dr. O.H. Cougar and Dr. George Moon formed a partnership and according to the November 4, 1869, Union Dakota "will enter into private practice here." The following week there appeared in the Union Dakota, "to the physicians of Dakota Territory: We are desirous of forming a medical association composed of practitioners of Medicine in the Territory of Dakota. We respectfully solicit physicians who favor the project to address us at once, J.B. Van Velser, MD; Henry A. Page, MD." In 1869 the Excelsior Drug and Book Store or Mills and Purdy opened on Second Street near Broadway. Mills was a medical doctor but did not practice. Dr. C.D. Owens and Dr. Henry Page advertised in the January, 1870, Union Dakota, "Dr. C.D. Owens will give special attention to the treatment in gynecology or diseases peculiar to the female and Dr. H.A. Page will give special attention to the treatment of all cases of chronic diseases of childhood and general practice." The partnership dissolved in March of 1870. The Union Dakota of May, 1870, stated that Dr. Moon put into operation in his office a laughing gas machine "you should see it in operation." The Yankton Press of March, 1871, listed F. Wilson, G.E. Moon, J.B. Van Velser, J.W. Wiberg, and Dr. George Moon as practicing physicians in Yankton. In 1873 Dr. Frank Etter opened an office. Others were to come in the next decade and the list continued. The Territorial Asylum for the insane was open on April 11, 1877. Dr. George Moon was the first superintendent. He resigned within a month and Dr. S.B. McGilpby was elected by the Board of Trustees. Dr. McGilpby served until 1885. Between this date and 1893 when Dr. L.A. White was the new superintendent, there were six other superintendents.

The first annual meeting of the Dakota Medical Society was held in Milbank on June 3, 1883. Three of the founding ten members were Doctors S.B. McGilpby, D.F. Etter and J.B. Van Bier were from Yankton. Dr. McGilpby was elected the first permanent Chairman. The first meeting held in Yankton

The first hospital was formed by the Yankton Hospital Association and was operated by Mrs. Mathilda Poore from 1895-1897. The hospital was located near the northwest corner of Fourth and Walnut and was known as the Swearingen House. Then the school house on the Summit of Mount Marty was opened as Sacred Heart Hospital and admitted the first patient on November 8, 1897. The first operation was performed by Dr. Russell on November 20, 1897. The staff members were Doctors William H. Turkoff, James Roane, S.B. McGilpby, V. Sebbakin-Ross, R.W. Rodgers and Chasery C. Gross. St. Francis of Porch opened his office on the corner of Third and Cedar Streets and treated his first patient on September 8, 1897. Doctors G.S. Adams and Jennie C. Murphy came to Yankton in 1903. The following year Dr. E.M. Morehouse began his practice.

The first medical clinic in South Dakota was the Hohf Clinic which was erected in 1914 and still stands at the northwest corner of Douglas Avenue and Fourth Street. Physicians were Doctors S.M. Hofh, surgery; J.A. Hofh, eye, ear, nose and throat; E.M. Morehouse, internal medicine and obstetrics; J.A. Wood, pathology and x-rays; and Miss Illa Guenther, administration.

Ground was broken for a new Sacred Heart Hospital "on the town side about one half block from the first hospital" on October 2, 1912. The first major operation performed in this new hospital was on May 27, 1915, by Dr. S.M. Hofh. Sister M. Faria called for a meeting to organize a Medical Staff on September 36, 1922. All of the physicians in Yankton responded: Doctors W.W. Embree, C.C. Gross, J.A. Hofh, S.M. Hofh, D.W. Moore, J.C. Murphy, James Roane, F.C. Smith, J.E. Trierweiler, and E.M. Morehouse.

Doctor Lottie Bigler moved from Mitchell to Yankton in 1922. George Johnson, F.W. Haas, Frank Abbe and V.I. Lacey also came to Yankton in the 1930's. Dr. Lacey spent only a year in Yankton before moving to Lake Andes. He returned to Yankton in 1938. Doctors Arthur J. Smith, B.B. Leonard, John F. Hill and Marie E. Sweeney were new doctors in Yankton in the 1930's.


The Yankton medical community has continued to grow and to flourish. New doctors have come bringing with them new expertise and specialties. Medical facilities have kept pace with the changing times. Dr. Justus Townsend's legacy of one physician has grown at least forty fold.

by Dr. Willis Stanage


by James Cwach

Yankton Suzuki: Highway 50 E of Yankton, S.D.
Third Street in Yankton – 1915

Milwaukee Depot on Burleigh at 8th Street.

Third Street of Yankton, SD. Looking west, between Walnut and Douglas.
GENERAL INDEX

Corner of 3rd and Douglas
GENERAL INDEX

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GENERAL INDEX

Index is by story number NOT page number

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GENERAL INDEX
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