

SESQUICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS



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Excerpts from the Plain Talk

By Cleo Erickson
1933

Did you ever speculate on what Vermillion's growth will be in the next quarter century? Living so much in the present, as most of us do, little thought is given to such problems as the appearance of this locality in another decade or two. A more or less bird's eye view of the city, taken the other day by a transient camera snapper, set us to thinking of the really remarkable change for the better this city has gone through in the past 25 years. In that time the place has been transformed from a dumpty little village to a modern, beautiful little city. In another 25 years, what? We'll bet our bottom dollar that Vermillion always will go forward.

Jetley Park, which is a half mile south and a half mile west of Meckling will be the scene of the 4th of July celebration of the Farmer's Union outing. It is open to the public and there will be a ball game between the Meckling team and the "Old Timers" along with a speaker in the afternoon. A bowery dance will be held in the evening. Bring your own food and there will be a concession stand handling ice cream, drinks, etc.

The Henderson corset factory in Illinois states that orders for the biggest corsets they make come from Meisenholder's store here in Vermillion. The biggest they make is a 48; they once turned down an order for a 54. They are wondering just how big the women get out in this neck of the woods.

Hundreds flocked to Jetley Park on the 4th to attend the Farmer's Union outing.

Russ Moser is the owner of the new Gamble Store that will open in the Strawn building. Stand in for the opening on Saturday, July 8th.

The City Council has allowed \$20.00 expense money for Chief of Police Fowler who plans to attend the S. D. Peace Officer's convention in Dead-

wood August 1 & 2.

Penney's Record Breaking Clearance Sale:

Big bath towels for 13 cents each.

Men's fancy socks, 5 pair for 49 cents.

Ruffled curtains, 31 cents.

Boys whoopee pants, 33 cents each.

Sheer wash frocks for 83 cents.

The population has increased by 85 for a few days while the railroad gang is laying new ties on the railroad bed. The project extends from Sioux City to Gayville.

At the City Council meeting, the city accepted E. E. Collin's deed to the 2 1/2 acre addition to the city dump or "annex" as some call it.

More than 5,000 people have gone through the museum at the university during the past year, according to Warren Bennett, who has charge of the museum this summer while W. H. Over, curator is on vacation. The visitors came from 25 states and 4 foreign countries.

Marvin Warner is the new owner of the Tavern Sandwich Shop. He took over from Wrights Sandwich Tavern Shop at Main and Elm Streets. He will also be operating his

candy and popcorn shop from this location.

The Himowitz family will be closing the doors on the Mercantile Co. in two weeks. This comes as a complete surprise to the residents of Vermillion. The family will continue to live in Vermillion and the family plans to spend their time managing their farms near Sioux City and Vermillion.

Attendance at the fair yesterday was around 6,000. All kids were admitted free. Local business houses will close Friday afternoon in order to give merchants and clerks a chance to take in the fair.

The city's 1934 budget will be a far cry from the \$40,000 budgets in by-gone-years. The 1934 budget is \$25,000. That is \$3,000.00 less than 1933.

Opening a skylight window and sliding down elevator ropes, a thief entered the Council Oak store and escaped with around \$700.00 in cash and checks and some merchandise.

A brand new portable Remington typewriter may be purchased at the Vermillion Plain Talk for \$14.95. It regularly sells for \$20.00. Act quickly there is only a limited number being offered.

Frank Michels will soon take over the Varsity, the downtown soft drink parlor which has been run the last five years by Fred Sims. Mr. Michels' father, William Michels Sr., built and operated what is known now as the Varsity a number of years ago. The Varsity will be redecorated.

Max Harlow of Sioux City is the new proprietor of the Vermillion Mercantile Co. Mr. Harlow will retain the same staff.

Milk prices are going up. A quart of milk will be 10 cents instead of 9 cents. A gallon will be 35 cents instead of 30 cents. Coffee cream will remain the same at 10 cents.

If you have live poultry to sell, call Silverberg's. We have made arrangements with WNAX, Yankton, to broadcast our poultry prices every day except Sunday at 12:13 PM.

Twenty five years ago the state law says that anyone maintaining a watering trough beside the highway accessible for horses, should be allowed five dollars per year out of his highway tax.

Tony Strain, the thug who took part in the local bank job was given a sentence of "not over 80 years". His wife, Mil-

dred, also was convicted of participation in the Minnesota robbery and was sentenced to "not over 40 years". Strain will serve his time in the state prison and his wife in the women's reformatory.

The first US home owner's loan has been made in Clay County. The borrower has been given the privilege of starting payments of just interest until 1936 or of paying interest and part of the principal each payment date.

Within a few weeks war department engineers expect to make known their recommendation as to the feasibility of extending navigability on the Missouri River to Yankton, by means of a dam and mammoth reservoir at Fort Peck, Montana.

Our Home Bakery, a new local business will open for business on Saturday. Owners of the business are William Corder, George Russell and Herbert Jolley. Mrs. Jolley will clerk at the bakery. The business is located in the newly remodeled Ketchum building just east of the Iverson store. The name of the bakery's bread will be "Golden Krust". There will be a delivery service.

Pressbox/ from page 1

that took place behind a high fence erected east of the building. The activity proved to be popular with the bar's patrons, but many nearby homeowners complained to the city about the noise the games produced late into the night.

The agreement between the city and Gruenwaldt that lead to the Pressbox's razing this week didn't come easily.

A month after The Pressbox was damaged by fire, Farrel Christensen, the city's building and zoning official, declared that the structure was a dangerous building and ordered it demolished by Dec. 15, 2008. Gruenwaldt appealed Christensen's ruling before the city council, acting as a board of appeals, on both Dec. 1, 2008 and Jan. 19.

After conducting public hearings on those two dates, the alderman determined The Pressbox should be either be demolished or repaired by Gruenwaldt. Gruenwaldt was required to secure all needed permits for the building's repair within 60 days of the council's ruling. That 60-day time period ended March 23.

On March 20, Gruenwaldt applied for an extension and a building permit to repair The Pressbox. After reviewing the application, city officials issued a written decision denying the extension and permit application. At the time, Christensen pointed to six deficiencies in Gruenwaldt's application that

left him no choice but to deny the extension and the building permit.

According to Christensen, Gruenwaldt failed to provide the city two copies of plans showing dimensions and shape of the lot to be built upon; the exact sizes and location on the lot of buildings already existing, if any, the location and dimensions of the proposed building or alteration; the materials of which it is to be constructed; and the details and type of construction to be used. All of those details, according to Christensen, are required by city ordinance.

Instead, Gruenwaldt included a list of costs of proposed repairs to the building totaling \$90,000. Gruenwaldt also disputed the need to submit plans and conform to current zoning regulations. Gruenwaldt provided the city with a copy of a structural design report, a copy of a letter he received from First National Bank requiring "a full set of building plans" before financing will be approved, the Clay County assessor's office replacement cost and square footage information, and first and second floor layouts with dimensions.

Gruenwaldt had argued last spring that his renovation project is exempt from any plans requirement because the rehabilitation of the building would not entail more than 4,000 square feet. Christensen also pointed out, in his letter to

Gruenwaldt, that a set back issue had arisen regarding The Pressbox because of non-conforming use. To battle that claim, Gruenwaldt disputed last spring whether his business was damaged more than 50 percent of its replacement cost in order to try to retain non-conforming use status.

Christensen noted that a factual determination had been made stating that the fire damage to The Pressbox exceeded 50 percent of replacement cost. He also stated that Gruenwaldt never provided him with cost figures to repair the building, forcing him to rely on county assessor and insurance company figures.

Last spring, Gruenwaldt's attorney, Michael Stevens, noted that The Pressbox owner has had to deal with allegations that he may have started the fire. "Obviously, that didn't occur," Stevens said last April. "We have spent many hours fighting with the insurance company, and they have now just recently paid the policy."

Stevens noted at that time that Gruenwaldt also had taken care of all of the debt owed on the premises, and had received financing to restore the building to its original condition. During the April 20 city council meeting, the aldermen agreed with Christensen's assessment, and decided that Gruenwaldt had failed to meet the requirements spelled out in city ordinances.

That lead to the possibility of this disagreements between the city and Gruenwaldt to continue before a judge in court. Last month's agreement between the city and The Pressbox owner stopped the possible court hearing.

"It came down to the issue of whether the building was habitable for a bar, and the applicant (Gruenwaldt) ended up agreeing that he would tear it down. Basically what this was all about was an unsafe structure," Prescott said.

It is alleged that Nathaniel Thomas, 21, and Jeremy Broomfield, 20, both of Sioux Falls; and James Broomfield, 21, of Vermillion; are responsible for starting the fire that severely damaged The Pressbox during the early morning hours of Sept. 29, 2008. An investigation determined that the fire was deliberately set.

The three men were arrested by Vermillion police Thursday, July 16. Each suspect was charged with reckless burning or exploding. The charge is a Class 4 felony that carries a maximum penalty of 10 years imprisonment in the state penitentiary.

It was estimated that The Pressbox building received fire damage totaling nearly \$290,000.

South Dakota unemployment rate remains at 5.0 percent

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports South Dakota's preliminary seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for November 2009 is 5.0 percent, unchanged from October 2009. The national rate is 10.0 percent.

Before 2009, the last time the seasonally adjusted unemployment reached 5.0 percent was in December 1985. The highest recorded unemployment rate was 5.9 percent in October 1982.

"There are about 10,000 more unemployed people looking for work now than at the same time two years ago when we were experiencing a thriving economy," said State Labor Secretary Pam Roberts.

Industries showing the largest over-the-year work-

er losses include mining, logging and construction; manufacturing; retail trade; and professional and business services.

"The South Dakota workforce is still feeling the effects of the national recession," said Secretary Roberts. "However, the Department of Labor continues to offer workforce training and job search assistance at all 19 of our field offices."

More information on the November 2009 labor force statistics for South Dakota and the nation is available on the South Dakota Department of Labor's Web site at www.sdjobs.org. An overview of the sub-state labor market will be released December 23 in the e-Labor Bulletin.

Deadwood Fund grant applications due

The South Dakota State Historical Society has announced that applications for the next round of the Deadwood Fund grant program are due on Feb. 1, 2010.

The program is designed to encourage large-scale restoration or rehabilitation of historic properties by individuals, organizations or public agencies, according to Jay D. Vogt, director of the State Historical Society, whose historic preservation office administers the program.

Grants for work beginning May 1, 2010, will be awarded in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$25,000. Grants amounts must be matched on a dollar-for-dollar basis from nonfederal and nonstate sources. Non-profit organizations will be allowed to use in-kind services for one-half of their matches. In 2008, \$103,000 was distributed among 12 projects.

The program is funded by Deadwood gaming revenue that is earmarked by state law for historic preservation projects and distributed by the State Historical Society.

The second round for 2010 applications will be due on Oct. 1, 2010.

For more information on the South Dakota State Historical Society's Deadwood Fund grant program, contact the State Historic Preservation Office at the Cultural Heritage Center, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, S.D., 57501-2217; phone (605) 773-3458; or visit the Web site www.sdhistorical.org HP/hist-pres.htm

BARRY'S
(605) 624-6530
PLUMBING

Doug Hanson
Benefit Fund

The Hanson family of Meckling lost their home in a fire on Wednesday morning. No one was injured but the Hanson family lost most of their possessions. Doug serves the Yankton Community on the Yankton Police Department and one of his sons works for McDonald's in Vermillion. He has four children and one grandchild at home.

Please help us make their holiday season a little brighter!

Cash Donations Can Be Made At:

First Dakota National Bank
111 Court Street, Vermillion, SD 57069

— OR —
225 Cedar Street, Yankton, SD 57078

— OR —
2105 Broadway Ave., Yankton, SD 57078

Checks must be made to Doug Hanson due to how the fund is setup.

Gift Cards Are Being Accepted

and will be delivered to the Hanson family by the Yankton Police Department, 410 Walnut St., Yankton, SD 57078
Vermillion Police Department
15 Washington St., Vermillion, SD 57069

Clothing Donations Are Being Accepted

Please Contact Rena Brunick 605-624-9214 for sizes and items needed.

Thank you to the Yankton Police Department, Vermillion Police Department, McDonald's of Vermillion, Vermillion Chamber of Commerce, First Dakota National Bank of Yankton and Vermillion, Broadcaster Press and Yankton Daily Press & Dakotan.

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