

SESQUICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS



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Excerpts from the Plain Talk

By Cleo Erickson
1934

An honest to goodness wedding, with County Judge Raymond L. Collar tying the knot, was the big feature Friday night at the Southern Exposition Shows playing during the race meet at the fair. The couple joined in the holy bonds of matrimony was Herman Daniels, who gave his address as Tampa, Florida, and Jessie McMurry, St. Paul, Minnesota and were members of the Harlem Steppers, one of the shows belonging to the company. The license was purchased that afternoon from Clerk of Courts Julia Danielson. The ceremony was performed with bridesmaids, groomsmen and flower girls, with jazz music and tap dancing as an accompaniment. After the ceremony the groom gave Judge Collar permission to salute the bride, but the judge did not avail himself of the privilege. The carnival consisted of about 25 different shows, employing over 100 people and travelling in a fleet of trucks. Besides the various shows and vaudeville attractions there were a Ferris wheel, merry mix-up, merry-go-round and several other mechanical attractions, a corn game, peep show and several games of chance. The motorcycle show gave spectators a thrill for their money as the riders tore around at a mile a minute. The mouse show, which featured trained mice, was one of the most educational and pleasing performances. Other popular attractions included the Night Club, which

featured singing, dancing and stories far from the well known parlor variety, Paris After Dark, patterned after the famous streets of Paris at the Chicago fair, and two hula dancers, whose regular show was followed by one "for men only", where the audience was not nearly as shocked as they expected to be. The shows were above the average and they showed to large crowds the last two evenings.

The new hospital for Vermillion is now certain. The necessary funds have been raised and construction is expected to start in October. Officials in charge of PWA construction will take care of letting the contracts. Soliciting of pledges began in 1930. Owing to crop failures in 1931 the project lay dormant for a time but was revived by the donation of \$30,000 from the heirs of the M. D. Thompson estate.

The contract for the new grandstand will be let today. It will seat 750 people. The parimutual booths will be under the central section. It will cost approximately \$2500.00 and will be completed in about two weeks. Andrew Meelen is the successful bidder for the job he and his crew worked in two shifts the last two days on the new grandstand. All is done except finishing touches and that will be done after the fair.

All but one store building in Vermillion is now being used. The depression is still quite in evidence in the city but the local people are proud that the downtown district is occupied.

2,000 people attended the Wakonda/Vermillion get-together last week. To accommodate the crowd, which was made up of mostly out of town people, the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce served over 200 gallons of lemonade. One thousand lemons and 150 pounds of sugar went into the making of 200 gallons of lemonade that was served on Sunday. W. E. Jurgensen and B. J. Skordahl, who were entrusted with the job of making and serving the lemonade borrowed a 200 gallon galvanized stock watering

tank from the Thompson Lumber company to use as a container and served the drink from the Self Serve delivery truck. It went over big. Everyone including grown folks and kids had all they wanted and at the close of the party there was perhaps a gallon of lemonade left.

Jay Swisher, received a badly fractured left arm when he rode under a tree and threw his arms up to keep the branches from hitting him and he fell off his horse. He will have to stay in bed for a couple of weeks to give the bones every chance to knit properly.

Fire Chief Louis Pierce has reported that the insurance companies were threatening to re-rate the town and raise insurance rates unless additional fire protection is provided. The fire committee of the city council and the fire chief were instructed to look into the matter of purchasing a new fire truck.

The Holtz Construction Company of Sioux City was awarded the general contract for the erection of the new hospital building in Vermillion. The total general contract including such alternates as were included amounted to \$58,452.00.

When a South Dakota auto with two women and two children plunged off a ferry on the Missouri River, Harry Luchey, 20 of Wayne, Nebraska, CCC youth working on the new state park near here, proved himself a hero by saving two of them from drowning. From the shore Luchey watched C. E. Lofgren and B. A. Dutcher try to free the trapped starter on the Dutcher auto. Suddenly the engine started, sending the auto backwards through the rail into the river, with Mrs. Lofgren and Mrs. Dutcher and two small children as passengers. Dutcher managed to open one of the car doors and pull two of the passengers to safety before it submerged, but it remained for Luchey to plunge in and rescue the other two. CCC workers pulled the car from the river.

Jolley Elementary students raise over \$1,400 for Haiti



Bailee Mann, Taylor Ferguson, and Kyleigh Chandler, fifth-graders at Jolley Elementary School, reacted with surprise when their idea to raise funds to help earthquake victims in Haiti netted over \$1,400.

A simple idea on the part of three students from Jolley Elementary School turned into a humanitarian effort that surpassed their expectations.

After seeing television coverage of the suffering and destruction following the recent earthquake in Haiti, fifth-graders Bailee Mann, Taylor Ferguson and Kyleigh Chandler decided they had to do something to help.

After getting permission from Principal Mark Upward, the girls got to work. They made posters, donation containers, and presented a short speech to students in each classroom telling them about the earthquake. They also sent notes to

students' parents to let them know that Friday, Jan. 22, was "Help Haiti Day."

On Friday, the girls collected the donations, and the money was brought to a local bank for counting. There were checks, bills and little plastic bags of change from the students and their parents.

The girls were pleasantly surprised to find their work resulted in a donation of \$1,434.03 for the Red Cross. Mrs. Schwartz, the school guidance counselor said, "We are proud that our students are taking our character counts lessons to heart, and reaching out to others," said Barb Schwartz, school guidance counselor.

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fund budget has increased by approximately 3 percent annually.

"The reason to renew this is to try to maintain the same quality of education and opportunities for the children coming up in the next five years as the children in the past five years have had," Bottolfson said. "Things are still going to be very tight - we're going to have to the budget constantly."

Without an opt-out, and assuming a 1 percent increase in funding under the property tax freeze, it is estimated that more than the current general fund balance of approximately \$1.4 million projected to remain at the end of this school year will be gone by the end of the 2011-12 school year, and, in fact, the school district's general fund would be drowning in red ink in the amount of approximately \$96,000. That deficit in the general fund would build year after year without the opt-out, plunging to an estimated \$4.1 million in the 2015-2016 school year.

Attempts to tighten the reins on spending, and under-spend the general fund by \$200,000 each year, would not stop a deficit from building. The school district projects that under that scenario, the general fund will be in the red by the 2012-2013 school year, and will be at a negative-\$2.7 million in 2015-2016.

Under the same scenario with the \$800,000 opt-out continuing over the next five years, the general fund maintains a positive balance until the 2015-16 school year. The freeze would end halfway through that calendar year, providing \$400,000 rather than \$800,000. It is projected that, with the opt-out, the general fund will be in the red approximately \$111,000 in 2015-16.

"I don't see how we can operate anywhere close to what we have in the past without going ahead and continuing this opt-out for \$800,000," Bottolfson said.

School board member Dave Stammer, who was elected to office after the opt-out was approved in March 2005, said one of the reasons he decided to seek a position on the school board was to see that the

promises that were made by the board before the opt-out was approved were being kept. "I truly believe that they were upheld by us reducing (the opt-out) for \$300,000 for two years," he said. "It was a promise that was made to the public, and that was definitely upheld."

One of the reasons that the school board has been able to continually underspend its general fund budget, Bottolfson said, it the thrifty practices of the administration and teachers.

"They are continually looking at ways to save," he said.

Superintendent Mark Froke noted that the Vermillion School District and dozens

of others throughout the state have been put into a position of seeking an opt-out of the property tax limitation because of inadequate funding for education from Pierre.

"Last year, we received an increase of barely \$5,000, and it is projected that we will receive a 0 percent increase in state aid, according to the governor's recommendation."

Voters can refer the board's decision to a public vote. To challenge to the board action, citizens must file petitions signed by at least five percent of the registered voters in the school district with the school business office within 20 days.

SPECIALS AT THE COUNCIL OAK STORE THIS WEEK INCLUDES:

- Beef Roasts @ 12 and 15 cents per pound
- Pork Chops @ 19 cents per pound
- Peaberry Coffee @ 19 cents per pound
- Blue Barrel Soap 5 giant bars 19 cents
- Tomatoes 2 regular # 2 cans 17 cents
- Eatwell Fresh Mackerel 8 cents for a pound can
- Keifer Pears @ \$1.69 per bushel
- Bananas 25 cents for 4 pounds.

The old fashioned woman who used to require her husband to support the family now has a daughter who expects the government to do it.

Many people congregated at the municipal building to view a demonstrator fire truck being shown by the Laverne Truck Company.

The Clay Creek church on the Bluff Road was struck by lightning for a second time in ten years. The building was empty and it burned to the ground. It has not been in use for a number of years so the only loss to the Bluff community is the wood in the framework.

The heating plant at the court house has not been working the past week. The officers were getting a bit cold during their working hours and forced the workers to don warm wraps while at their jobs.

The city council authorized the city auditor to advertise for bids for a new 600 gallon pumper capacity fire truck. The bids will be opened October 8th.

New Roth Conversion Rules for 2010

Starting in 2010, the IRS has relaxed the rules with regard to conversions of traditional IRA's or 401(k) plans to a Roth IRA. Prior to 2010, any conversions to a Roth IRA would be 100% taxable in the year of conversion. For 2010 conversions, the taxable income can be spread equally between tax years 2011 and 2012. For more information about this or any other tax related questions, please contact Dave or Alli at Williams & Company.



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