

LARRY

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Villarreal. "He has inspired so many people in the community, and at the same time we have found that the community is so supportive of Larry. One thing that is very important that we found how people in South Dakota are so friendly, so helpful, and that also has a huge impact on Larry's health and his life."

After the demo video was finished, a campaign to raise funds for the film began, including interviews on Fox San Diego and articles in the L.A. Times and various cycling magazines.

"We ended up exceeding our fundraising goal," Villarreal said. "Everyone was covering it, and it became such a successful fundraiser. We had people supporting Larry from Brazil, people that donated money all the way from Singapore, Ireland, Canada, Mexico - it was just huge that people were supporting from all these places and saw in Larry someone they could identify with, that they could have some inspiration (from)."

The documentarians will interview a number of doctors and family members for the film, but the main thrust of the story is Smith's ride.

"We haven't even filmed the biggest part of the story, and we've already had people saying, 'Thank you so much for this. This has been so amazing.' Some people have called Larry their hero. It's been a very good response," Villarreal said.

The first leg of the ride will extend from Aberdeen to Webster, followed by treks from Webster to Watertown, Watertown to Brookings, Brookings to Sioux Falls, and Sioux Falls to Beresford/Vermillion, respectively.

Smith and specialists from Sanford Health will speak to Parkinsons groups at each stop along the way. Members of these groups will be able to submit their names to win a Catrike like Smith's, the drawing for which will be held at the final ceremony in Vermillion, which is set to take place from 12-2:30 p.m. in the plaza at the corner of Main and Market.

"It's all to promote the benefits of exercise for Parkinson's patients, and just so that people can see the big improvement it has done for Larry," Villarreal said.

Cyclists also are encouraged to sign up online to ride along with Smith, with a portion of the proceeds from their participation going toward the Davis Phinney Foundation.

Smith and his wife have been training for the tour for about a year. Since January, they have attended a spinning class - a vigorous style of

stationary bicycling - at the Wellness Center at the University of South Dakota.

"We get on these bicycles ... and we have a slave-driver as a coach, and he has really gotten us going," Smith said. "I'm at the height of physical health, which is ironic, because I've never been so sick in my life as I am right now with Parkinson's. But I feel good."

"It was great during the winter, because when the snow was high he could go to spinning class, and that's how they were really able to bump up their training," Skow said.

Smith also rides to and from work each day, as well as other rides throughout the week.

"I take it out as often as I can and ride 10, 15, 20 miles," he said.

Smith has been cycling for the past 20 years or so, but said he "got more into it" in the past six when he found out it helped relieve his Parkinson's.

"They've found through research that biking does improve the condition of people with Parkinson's," he said. "But the trouble was, (with a two-wheel bike) I would occasionally crash. For no apparent reason I would just fall off the bike and pulverize myself on the sidewalk."

Then one of Smith's friends showed him a recumbent Catrike bike. He bought one of his own soon after.

Villarreal said he hopes the finished film will not only help to portray Smith's story, but give viewers a deeper understanding of Parkinson's as a disorder.

"Parkinson's is still one of those conditions that people don't really know well," he said. "They don't understand it. So, with this film we also are trying to ... inform people better what Parkinson's is all about ..."

"The whole message, I guess, is regardless of the situation you have, you can live life to the fullest," he said. "You

can still do a lot with your life. Someone with Parkinson's doesn't necessarily have to be destined to (live in) a wheelchair for the rest of their life."

The film may be completed by early 2012. Even though it isn't finished, the footage that has been made available online already has touched a vast number of people, Skow said.

"We got a lot of messages not necessarily from people with Parkinson's, but (who) found inspiration from the story," she said.

"I think it's more perspirational than inspirational," Smith joked.

Along with Skow and Villarreal, other members of the film crew include co-director/producer Andrew Rubin, producer Matt Rubin and executive producer Stephen Nemeth.

For more information about the film or the ride itself, visit ridewithlarrymovie.com or facebook.com/ridewithlarry.

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RICARDO VILLARREAL

State Historical Society reflects on 1952 Flood



This photograph, courtesy of the South Dakota State Historical Society Archives, shows an aerial view of Fort Pierre during the 1952 flood.

For many people, the 2011 Pierre-Fort Pierre Flood brings back memories of the last time the area suffered a major flood - 1952.

The two floods have their similarities and differences. Both floods were weather-related. But while the 2011 flood is being called a "controlled flood" by officials with the state and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers due to record releases by the Oahe Dam near Pierre and others along the Missouri River, there was no dam in 1952. The groundbreaking of the dam came in 1948, but it wasn't officially completed until 1964.

The South Dakota State Historical Society has a wealth of information about the 1952 flood available in the State Archives at the Cultural Heritage Center in Pierre, and it is also collecting information from the 2011 flood.

"The South Dakota State Historical Society collects, preserves, interprets and promotes the history of South Dakota and its people," said Jay D. Vogt, society director. "We count on the assistance of the people who are experiencing this flood event to provide us with their stories, photographs, etc. We need to acquire this material now before it is lost."

"We acquired the 1952 flood material over years, and we have some outstanding photos and film," Vogt added. "The society continues to receive material, and events such as this year's flood allow us to more effectively raise awareness about donating material to repositories such as the State Historical Society Archives for long-term preservation."

The State Archives has a number of resources on the flood of 1952, including books, articles, newspapers, manuscript and government collections, photographs and film footage. The photographs and film footage show the widespread flood damage in both Pierre and Fort Pierre.

"Film footage from 1952 is one of the most fascinating aspects of our Pierre/Fort Pierre flood collection," said Chelle Somsen, South Dakota State Archivist. "Scenes in the film show the flood waters at various levels, Pierre and Fort Pierre businesses and residences, the highway and railroad bridges across the Missouri River, and views of volunteers making sandbags."

Harold Schuler of Tucson, Ariz., and formerly of Pierre, wrote about the 1952 flood in his book "Pierre Since 1910."

"In the 1952 flood, I and Maynard Sommer and many others were assigned to the Army DUKW, a large vehicle that operated on both land and water," Schuler recently remembered. "We hauled many loads of sandbags from an area near the railroad tracks to the power plant, which is now the location of the South Dakota Discovery Center. Anyway, many of us working hard saved the plant and, as a result, power was on during the flood."

Heavy winter snowfall followed by above-normal spring temperatures caused the 1952 flood. Schuler wrote that between October and March that winter, 75.8 inches of snow hit the Pierre area - almost three times the average.

High spring temperatures then quickly melted the snow, overflowing creeks and rivers draining into the Missouri. On April 3, 1952, the level of the Missouri was 17 feet; flood stage, measured at the highway bridge, was 15 feet.

At that time, ice on the river was still holding. The ice broke on April 4 and the river dropped to 13.8 feet, but on April 7, the temperature climbed to 58 degrees and the river level rose to 16.61 feet. As in 2011, a huge sandbagging effort began in Pierre and Fort Pierre, with the

flood stage expected to hit 22 feet.

On April 8, the temperature was 71 and the water level hit 19.35 feet. The next day, the flood stage was 22.87 feet. People in both towns were being evacuated from their homes.

The peak flood stage, 25.25 feet, occurred on April 10. The water was 29 inches deep in downtown Pierre on lower Pierre Street. Fortunately, the city's main water well and power plant were diked and above flood stage, so both power and water were not lost.

The loss to homes and businesses in both towns was enormous. In Fort Pierre, 50 homes were destroyed and more than 100 more were damaged; every business building was at least damaged. In Pierre, the loss was estimated at \$2 million, with major damage to 104 homes and minor damage to another 111.

But Robert Hipple, editor of the Daily Capital Journal, summed up the feelings of people when he wrote in an April 15 editorial, "Pierre has met and sustained the worst disaster in its history. We are determined to go ahead and clean up and rebuild our town."

For more information, visit the State Historical Society website at www.history.sd.gov and click on "Archives" in the menu and then "1952 Flood," or call the State Archives at (605) 773-3804.

SESQUICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Cleo Erickson

From the files of the Plain Talk

1955

Stop at Russ' Gamble Store and get a double trade in offer on your old washing machine when you buy the new Coronado Supermatic, semi-automatic washer priced at \$174.95. This new washer turns itself off at the time you select, holds 10 lbs of clothes, has the famous Lovell Wringer, and has a convenient waist high control panel. And has a five year warranty.

Capt. Earl G. Weaver of the Sioux City Air Base parachuted to safety when his F-860 jet aircraft crashed and exploded about 11:15 a.m. Saturday on a farm owned by Twila Larson about six miles southwest of Vermillion. Capt. Weaver's parachute carried him to a corn field on the Norman Knutson farm, about two miles south of where the plane crashed. He was picked up by Mr. Knutson. Immediately after the crash the Vermillion Fire Department and county and state law enforcement officers were called to the scene. They took charge and kept the area cleared of spectators until officials arrived from the air base. No reason has been given for the cause of the crash. Col. Shook said a board of officers will be appointed to investigate the crash. Col. Shook advised that spectators should stay at least 1,000 feet away from the scene of the crash. Two local men, Leo Wherry and Morten Sorenson held back the crowds until people from the air base arrived. It seems no one was in much of a mood to argue with the

two men.

It is expected that the new Austin and Jolley grade schools will be ready for the opening of school on Sept. 6th.

Old records reveal the names of the following people who served on the school board in 1879 were C. E. Prentis, H. J. Austin and John L. Jolley.

Several stage lines came through Vermillion in 1880. One went to Sioux Falls daily. Another line went to Bloomingdale, Lodi and Centerville on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and once a week, on Friday, a trip was made to Clay Point and Dalesburg. The first stage line was instituted in 1867 when a government wagon road was completed between Sioux City and Yankton. The first train reached Vermillion in 1872.

The new exhibit building that was built this year by the Clay County Fair Association was dedicated on Wednesday night. The 50 X 100 ft. building was erected at a cost of about \$20,000. The heating system still needs to be installed.

The 1956 budget for the City of Vermillion is \$823,500.

The USD enrollment shows a big increase. The total may hit 1,850. Last year's total was 1,608. The all time high was set in 1948 when 1,953 students registered.

A fund in the amount of \$6,000 needs to be raised for underwriting the first year of a proposed ferry on the Missouri River. This fund is to cover any financial loss during the first year. Pledges are being taken and would be paid at \$10 per month for one year. If the income from the first year of operation of the ferry is enough to meet the

expenses the money in the underwriting fund will be returned to the donors.

The seat of the jet plane that crashed last week was found in the corn field on the Hans Jaspersen farm on the Timber Road.

A grand opening event for the new Sinclair service station will be held in Burbank on Saturday, October 15. The station will be known as Rhoten's Service and is owned by Orville Rhoten. There has been no station in Burbank since one operated by Frank Adams and it burned early in 1952.

Meisenholder's Motor Company is "Wheeling and Dealing" like never before. Hurry in and get under the tent of the biggest profit cutting Buick sales show on earth.

The General Electric portable TV sets you've been hearing about so much lately are now on sale in Vermillion. They are a really slick little job. With just built-in rabbit ears, both Channel 4 and 9 come in beautifully. It only weighs 32 pounds, and has a carrying handle, so you can easily haul it around anywhere you want

it.

It was estimated that over 15,000 people lined the streets of Vermillion to watch the Dakota Day parade. There were many beautiful floats and many marching band units.

The firemen were kept busy on Wednesday with 3 calls in 25 minutes. The first call was a grass fire on the Manning farm north of Junction City. A few minutes later the department received a call when a small grass fire started in the yard at Fairview School. The third call came from the West Side Café as another grass fire.

Watch out for "The Williams Gang" who are a notorious group of swindlers. There is a big story in *The Saturday Evening Post* about this gang. They have been in Vermillion twice in the last three years and undoubtedly swindled a lot of people here. They are smooth talkers and sell imported glass, Irish lace, rugs, table cloths and they also specialize in spray painting with aluminum paint that washes off barns and out buildings after the first rain and they install lightning rods. Where their goods come from is unknown but may be

smuggled into the states. They must have had good sales in this area as they are coming back.

Ted R. Grier of Sioux City has purchased the Wyman Motor Co. from Keith Wyman

This week the *Plain Talk* begins its 72 year of publication in Vermillion.

Effective November 1st, Austin Dairy will advance milk prices one cent a quart. Cream and Cottage cheese will remain the same.

The new 1956 Pontiacs are now on hand at Meisenholder Motor Company. You can purchase the 850 Chiefton two-door with heater, two-tone exterior, white wall tires, directional signals, oil filters, oil

baths, and permanent anti-freeze for \$2,745.00. The 860 four-door with all the same accessories except adding the hydro-matic transmission sells for \$2,933.00.

Building plans are now prepared for the proposed Nursing Home. Four acres of land south of the present Dakota Hospital property have been secured from the Thomas R. Walker Trust. This area has a 550 foot frontage on South Plum Street.

The December 29th, 1955, *Plain Talk* reports that 110 boys and 92 girls were born at Dakota Hospital this year.

END 1955

The Vermillion United Methodist Church would like to cordially invite the public to a...

Going Away Gathering for Rev. Brook McBride

To Thank Him for His 11 Years of Dedicated Service to the Church and Community.

Date: **Sunday, June 26th**
 Time: **5:00pm-7:30pm**
 (short program beginning at 6:00pm)
 Location: **United Methodist Church**
 16 North Dakota Street, Vermillion, SD

PLAIN TALK Seeks Donations For Book Sale

The Vermillion Plain Talk is seeking donations for a book sale to be held during the Vermillion's City Wide Rummage Sale which will be June 23rd and 24th. All book donations should be in good condition. VHS/DVD movies will also be accepted M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. until June 17th, 2011. Proceeds from the sale will go to the Newspapers in Education program, which provides free newspapers to classrooms in Vermillion and the surrounding areas.

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