

SESQUICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS



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 Excerpts from the Plain Talk
 By Cleo Erickson
 1928

The Civic Council distributed Christmas Baskets to needy families according to the plans being made by the Council and various Vermillion Churches. The council voted to take money from their treasury to buy toys and clothing for needy families. This is the first time the Council ever attempted a Christmas program of help.

The Bergen Church south of Meckling was a scene of the baptism of the Bensen twins. They were held by the Iverson twins.

The Vermillion barber shops will be closed all day Christ-

mas and New Years Days. The shops will remain open until 10:00 PM on the preceding evenings. Signed: Master Barbers of Vermillion.

The Game Department is trapping pheasants for distribution in west river counties. The State Game and Fish Commission plans to stock the west river section with 10,000 birds this winter.

Howard Morse was loser to the extent of \$22.00 when a lone robber stuck a gun into his ribs Friday evening and told him to lift them high. Howard had just gone to his cow barn in the early evening to do the milking. As he said, he had a milk stool in one hand and a pail in the other, but pail, stool and all went high with his hands. The robber secured about \$22.00 which Howard had in his pockets and went his way. So far he has not been apprehended and no good description has been secured.

For the third time in less than a year robbers entered the Bank of Meckling and also for the third time went away without securing any reward for their efforts. It was not known until Christmas morn-

ing when two little boys were out early and found the front door of the bank open and gave the alarm. The door had been pried open with a crowbar. They blew a hole through the brick wall of the vault, making the hole large enough for a man to crawl through. Inside the vault a charge was then placed in the door of the money safe, and this was blown off. What caused the robbers to leave without finishing their job is not known. They left a sack of pennies on the floor of the vault and the only clues left were the crowbar, an old sock, and a part of a glass of explosive on a table. The interior of the bank was almost a complete wreck. The other two attempts of robbery were through a rear window and the men were scared away by the burglar alarm. It is not known if the same men were involved in the three robberies.

A glass was broken out of the back door at Tom's Chocolate Shop at a late hour. The robbers took several boxes of candy and cigarette lighters but no funds were taken. The job was quite apparently the work of amateurs.

1930

Robberies seem to be in fashion during the late 1920's and 1930's. On January 2, 1930, burglars held up the Manning & O'Connor store and post office at Burbank. However, the three burglars were surprised and held up their hands and submitted peacefully when a group of heavily armed officers walked in on them. Acting upon a tip which came through the Merchants Mutual Alliance Detective agency of Sioux Falls, local officers secreted themselves in the vicinity of the Burbank store about midnight Monday night. The party included Col. A. B. Sessions and John Borcherday, of the Merchants Mutual Alliance, Sheriff Jas. Patridge, Deputy Sheriff Howard Curtis, Policeman Will Bliss and States Attorney H. O. Perkins.

Sometime after midnight, three men were seen to approach the store. They jimmied open the front door, with apparent ease, and entered the building. Giving them a few minutes time, the officers advanced, unlocked the door

and called upon them to surrender. Confronted with an arsenal of shotguns and revolvers the men complied without resistance.

The men were brought to Vermillion and questioned until nearly morning, but they were all hard boiled and refused to talk, beyond giving names which may or may not have been their own. Raymond Gardner, alias Kansas Shorty, alias Charles Nelson, who is said to be an ex-convict from Leavenworth. He has been living in Sioux City at the Victory hotel. His usual haunts are said to be around Omaha, where he is known as a bootlegger and small yegg man. He is about 32 years of age.

James Robinson or James Keane, also thought to have an extensive penitentiary record is about 50 years old. The officers had the men fingerprinted and photographed and have sent out descriptions to Midwestern cities to see if the men are wanted elsewhere. So far there have been no new developments.

The year of 1929 marked

numerous improvements in Vermillion. The largest building erected during that period of time is the First National Bank and Trust Company and is still under construction. It is being erected at a cost of about \$25,000.00, exclusive of fixtures. The most expensive single building was the new property of the sorority house for Kappa Alpha Theta on north Plum Street. The cost was approximately \$30,000.00. Tom Kaltsulas built a nice new home on Church Street.

Cigarette smoking is increasing yearly. Approximately 250,000,000 cigarettes were sold at a cost to the consumers of two and one-half million dollars. The tax amounted paid to the state treasury was \$469,480.91. This is an increase of more than \$30,000.00 over the previous year. It includes taxes on cigarette papers and dealers licenses. The tax was originally designed to take care of building needs at the state school, but was taken away by the last legislature and is now swallowed up by the general fund.

Vermillion Light, Power celebrates Public Power Week

Vermillion Light and Power is celebrating Public Power Week, Oct. 4-10, along with more than 2,000 other electric utilities that collectively provide electricity on a not-for-profit basis to 45 million Americans.

"Public Power Week is a chance for Vermillion Light and Power to articulate why public power is a good fit for Vermillion. We are absolutely dedicated to providing top-notch service and the lowest rates possible," said Mark Koller, Vermillion Light and Power superintendent.

Public Power Week is a national, annual event sponsored in conjunction with the American Public Power Association (APPA) in Washington, D.C. APPA is the service

organization for community- and state-owned electric utilities.

"We are proud to be a public power community," Koller said. "Our focus goes beyond serving customers. We serve the community."

Vermillion Light and Power invites community members to participate in a variety of Public Power Week events. Activities include an open house Oct. 6 serving 11 a.m.-1p.m., with drawings for prizes

"Vermillion Light and Power knows how important it is to keep the lights for the people of Vermillion, and we continue to find ways to do so with special dedication to reliability, safety and the environment," Koller said.

Wakonda student has role in Jungle Book production

Skylar Tiahart, Wakonda, has the role of Hoke the monkey in Jungle Book Tales, on stage at Northwestern College, Orange City, IA, Oct. 1 through Nov. 12.

The stories from Rudyard Kipling's classic children's book will be presented to audiences of school children every Tuesday and Thursday. Performances open to the public are Friday, Oct. 2, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 3, at 4 p.m. in the Allen Theatre of the DeWitt Theatre Arts Center.

Adapted and directed by Northwestern theatre profession Jeff Taylor, Jungle Book Tales tells the story of Mowgli, a boy who is being raised by wolves in the jungles of India. Guiding him as he learns about friends, enemies and pack loyalty are Baloo the bear and Bagheera the panther.

The one-hour production includes vine-swinging Bandar-log (monkeys) and puppetry for the characters of Chil, the hawk, and Kaa, the snake.

Northwestern College's award-winning theatre program offers majors in theatre,

speech and Christian theatre ministries. A Christian liberal arts college of 1,200 students, Northwestern is rated a top five Midwestern college by U.S. News & World Report magazine.

FSA loans available to youth groups

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate agricultural income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

Youth loan eligibility requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa,

the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien.

- Be 10 years to 21 years of age.
- Live in a rural area or in a town of 50,000 people or fewer.
- Must obtain a written recommendation and consent from a parent or guardian if the applicant has not reached the age of majority under state law.
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements.
- Conduct a modest agricultural income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined

- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.
- Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms. The FSA staff can help you with questions you may have about a particular program.

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