

SESQUICENTENNIAL HIGHLIGHTS

By Cleo Erickson

Excerpts from the Plain Talk

1960

One of Vermillion's oldest buildings in Vermillion business district is being torn down to make way for 8-C's Sport Shop on Market Street. The frame structure adjoining the Sports Shop was occupied by the photo studios of W. H. Lawton, pioneer Vermillion photographer, in the early days of Vermillion. Tom Chaney and Gary Souhrada who are working on the project, report they are finding the square nails used in the original construction of the old building. This story has brought about speculation as to the exact age of the ancient structures. An examination of the files from "The Dakota Republican," tells us a fire destroyed every building on the west side of Market Street except the Lee & Prentiss store on the north end to Union (now Kidder) Street on the south. Burned to the ground were two grocery stores, a saloon, a wholesale liquor store, a meat market, the post office and a furniture store.

Married students will soon be moving into the new housing

units on the USD campus. A new addition has been added to the Medical School on campus. This addition represents the biggest single project in local building during the first half of 1960.

For the second year, USD registrations have passed the 5,000 mark.

J. J. Newberry Company is having a spring and summer clearance sale. Prices have been greatly reduced. Shop now and save in air conditioned comfort.

Plans for a major building project in the business district was announced this week by Wm. Barton of the Thompson Lumber Company. The new one story building will be erected on Court Street on the site now occupied by the lumber storage and sales sheds of the Thompson Lumber Company. Total frontage will be 116 feet. The new building space will be occupied by two retail stores now located on Main Street – the J. C. Penney Company and the J. J. Newberry Company. Each store will have a 48 foot frontage and a depth of 150 feet. The Newberry Store will occupy the north building space and J. C. Penney will adjoin on the

south. The Newberry Company has operated a Vermillion store since 1927 and the J. C. Penney store was established in 1928. The Thompson Lumber sheds were erected on the above spot in 1921 following the completion of the large brick building on the corner that faces the post office.

Ground breaking ceremonies were held for the ground breaking of the new Catholic School. Contracts have been awarded to several contractors. The cost of the school is estimated to be \$10.00 per square foot. The school is expected to be completed by the fall of 1961 when operation will begin with six grades.

The Vermillion School Board approved an operating budget of \$370,000 for the 1960-61 school years. This is an increase of about \$40,000 over the general operating budget total for 1959-60 school years.

A storm sewer to drain the northwest section of the USD campus from Dakota Street east to University Road is in the blue print stage.

Nebraska residents have written a letter to the Vermillion

Chamber of Commerce asking for some means of crossing the Missouri River so they can shop in Vermillion stores. One lady said she has spent most of her life within 25 miles of Vermillion but only visited the city of Vermillion once. Since the taming of the Missouri River, the Nebraska people are wondering about the possibility of a bridge and highway between Maskell and Vermillion.

During the storm that hit Burbank on Saturday night, all of the street lights were burned out and the telephone at the elevator was burned out. The rain gauges registered 4 1/2 inches of rain fell during the storm.

During the past week the city has been pumping water from the wells below the bluff at the rate of about one million gallons a day. Demand has been running ahead of last summer.

The Retailers Committee of the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring "Watermelon Days" on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There will be lots of bargains in the stores and all you can eat

from Vermillion grown melons. Some of the bargains include, Chuck Roasts, 39 cents per lb.; Butter Nut Coffee, 59 cents per lb.; Flame Tokay Grapes, 2 lbs., 25cents.

The Vermillion Tanagers won their homecoming game by defeating Winner by a score of 35-13. The Tanager Day Queen was Jeanne Iverson. A little tough luck happened to King Jeff Wirth when he suffered a broken ankle during the game.

The old Science Hall, a landmark on the USD campus is being torn down. The building was condemned two years ago by the State Engineer. A new science center is being built on the north side of Julian Hall on Dakota Street.

This year there are 471 married students enrolled at USD. This is about 20% of the total student body. Even with the 2 new apartment buildings for married students there are fewer housing units on the campus for married students than 10 years ago. In 1955 there were 155 trailer house units on campus. Most of these have now been removed. Thus the shortage for married student housing.

No trace has been found of the person or persons who entered Yeado Jewelry and took 5 watches from one of the safes. A \$100.00 reward will go to anyone giving information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person committing the crime.

Gasoline prices dropped three cents per gallon at Vermillion service stations. Price of regular gasoline dropped from 34 cents per gallon to 31 cents per gallon.

Thieves entered the J. J. Newberry store on Monday night and took \$800.00 in cash and checks. This robbery took place exactly two weeks after the Yeado Jewelry Store was robbed.

Approximately 500 people attended the first service in the new Trinity Lutheran Church at the corner of Plum and Clark Streets. A landmark at the church will be the tall cross at the southeast corner of the building. Pastor Borgwardt held a short service just outside the church before the congregation entered. This service followed the final communion at the old church on the corner of Harvard and Main Streets at 8:45 am.

END 1960

PROTEST

From Page 1

level, and it's very apparent on the state level in South Dakota as well. That's why we are gathering as Vermillionaires against corporate greed.

"We know that Vermillionaires are different than millionaires," Wilson said. "We are very lucky to live in such a wonderful community as Vermillion, but Vermillion is kind of an enclave in South Dakota, and we want to speak out against corporations like the proposed Hyperion oil refinery that threaten our environment for future generations."

"Middle class people are starting to get angry at Wall Street, and events like this give people a voice," said Dr. Elizabeth Smith, a political science professor at the University of South Dakota, who took part in Saturday's event. "A lot of folks just want to give voice to their anger for preferential tax rates for individuals."

"Every dollar that I earn is taxed at the highest marginal rate," she said, "but the dollars that I earn by doing nothing – my passive income – is taxed at a preferential rate. That's why Warren Buffet has an effective tax rate of 17.6 percent. Most of that money ... he doesn't directly work for. To me, this violates a very fundamental American value of fairness and justice."

"We're here because the candidates with the most money won 93 percent of the Congressional seats in the last election – that's Republicans and Democrats both," Tom Emanuel, a USD student who helped organize Occupy Vermillion, told people who gathered at the plaza. "We're here because health insurance companies have the power, according to a Harvard Medical School study, to deny comprehensive health coverage to up to 45,000 people a year."

"We're here because Goldman Sachs and AIG and Bank of America get away with driving our economy into a recession, and then receive \$700 billion in bailouts," he said. "We're here because our government can spend \$3 billion a day on war ... and yet, when we try to balance the budget, social programs get cut first."

Wilson said that corporations like Hyperion, and Power Tech, which plans to mine uranium in the Black Hills region, will be very detrimental to the state.

"To even think of transforming some of the nation's best farmland in Union County to an area that's uninhabitable is horrible. What these corporations do is come into cities into which there is a certain amount of unemployment, they promise jobs, everybody thinks things are going to be more prosperous, but they never talk about what's going to be left when they leave," Wilson said. "They never talk about the effects this will have on our water and our air and our soil."

Oil from Canadian tar sands is currently being transported through South Dakota in the TransCanada pipeline. "It has leaked a dozens times, and now the Excel pipeline is being proposed and we think that is going to be even more dangerous because the pressure is going to be higher," she said. "People are very concerned all along the route of the pipelines that the water is

going to be polluted."

Smith noted the difficulty of trying to make changes in the current practice of granting tax benefits to large corporations.

"Once that tax benefit is in the code, it's immortal. It stays there forever," Smith said. "And it's invisible. So we can count every dollar that we spend on health care for children, but we have no count of the dollars we give away for free to corporations, and believe me, the amount is much, much, much higher."

She believes citizens are starting to realize the detrimental effects that current tax regulations are having on the nation's economic system.

"It's beginning to become more evident as you look at the rising inequality of income. Poor people are getting poorer and poorer. They don't have health care. They are living on minimum wage, which isn't a living wage in most parts of the U.S. And wealthy people, because they are taxed at this preferential rate, they keep it all (their income) or most of it," Smith said. "A lot of people who earn in the millions of dollars do not pay any taxes at all."

"For me, I think people are wanting to voice their anger," she said.

"Corporate influence on our government and the fact that we are still providing subsidies to our oil companies is a terrible thing for our economy," Wilson said. "We need to stop doing that and we need to put our tax dollars into programs that need that benefit – children, schools, health care. We need to improve our education system in this country."

Progressive programs, in Wilson's view, are too often stymied by a Congress that refuses to consider implementing higher taxes on people who can well afford it.

"I think that our economic crisis is largely the result of the CEOs that make salaries that are often more than 10 times as much as the employees of the corporation," she said. "When that happens, not as much revenue is becoming part of the broad economy, and it's really of no benefit."

Emanuel contends that Americans, as individuals, need to stop focusing on themselves and focus more on the many problems currently facing the nation.

"We need to recognize our enemy. Our enemy is not the 1 percent themselves, because they are people, too, and they are slaves to the system just as much as any of us are," he said. "Our enemy is this system in which we live that demands that we deny our deeper humanity in order to get ahead."

It's time for the American

people to look beyond themselves, Emanuel said, and to begin caring for one another.

"We've got to break out of this 'us versus them' mentality that we have; this idea that my needs are more important than your needs," he said. "In reality, my needs are bound up with your needs. We are all connected in ways that we don't even understand."

Saturday's gathering in Vermillion may have been tiny compared to the events being held in New York and other metropolitan centers across the globe that day. Its small size didn't diminish its purpose, in Wilson's view.

"I think one of the main things we need to do is get to know one another," Wilson said. "One great thing that is happening is the involvement of the Vermillion community and students at the university to help with this. It's the young people across the world – when I see them speaking out, it gives me a great deal of hope and a good feeling about the future."

The current inequality in the tax code exists, in part, because corporations spend millions of dollars a year lobbying Congress, Smith said.

"We are able to see how the tax code is benefiting some people at the expense of others," she said. "Most people are shocked when they find out how favorable the tax code is for corporations compared to individuals. People

are also shocked to learn that Wall Street income, that you don't lift a finger to earn, gives you a tax rate of 15 percent across the board no matter how many millions you earn a year. At the same time, marginal tax rates go up to 30 percent, so a middle class person can be paying 30 percent while a very wealthy person is paying 15 percent."

Smith said it is hard to predict whether "Occupy Wall Street" will catch on as a major social movement in the United States.

"I think the reason that Wall Street was chosen as the site of protests initially is because it's a symbol of corporate America," she said. "The fact that it has moved beyond Wall Street, I think, is a real surprise to everyone. I think it's a real surprise that a small town like Vermillion can turn out a few people who are willing to be on the record."

Smith believes a growing number of Americans are becoming frustrated that tax reform is never accomplished. "People have felt helpless and angry. Seventy five percent of Americans believe the tax code should be reformed, but nobody is listening to them."

"I think that the hope of the organizers is that more people realize there is a way to have a voice, and organizers of events like this are simply trying to provide a forum for people to

speak out in a way that they can be heard," she said.

Smith noted that people have to begin holding members of Congress accountable. One way to do that is to become better informed about the nation's tax system so that they can ask their federal legislators how they have voted on specific measures.

"That means you have to begin to achieve a better understanding of the tax code," she said. "People should be able to ask whether we should extend the low rate of taxation on capital gains. That's a good question to ask our legislators. Do you want to give tax preferences to rich people, or should we lower rates to middle class people?"

"Most of us don't know how to ask that question yet," Smith said. "I think that's what part of this is about – educating people."

Emanuel noted that "Occupy Wall Street" has been chided for

not having a clear agenda.

"I think those critics are missing the point. You don't want to put out a burning building until you've planned out the building that will take its place. And more importantly, these meetings are the agenda, at least for right now," he said. "We've grown tired of a government that does not listen to 99 percent of its people. Meetings like this are a way to get everyone involved. For problems as big as the ones that we are facing as a society, we need everyone at the table."

Today, the solution to these problems doesn't exist with a government influenced by well-funded corporate lobbying, Emanuel said.

"Our job here is to force it (the government) to respond. This is the first step, and I pray that it won't be the last," he said.

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It is our privilege to offer 217.89 acres of tightly held Volin Township, Yankton County Land. This auction allows for both farmers & investors to add additional acres to their operations. All tracts will be sold independently and not tied together or sold as one unit.

TRACT ONE: 64.39 ACRES
Legal: S 1/2 of the SE 1/4 except Tract 1 of White Farm Add. in Section 17, 94-54 Yankton County, SD.
Location: Junction of 448th Ave and 306th St.
• 64.52 acres highly productive tillable land, oil road borders to east.
• Annual Taxes are TBD as acreage was recently surveyed out.
• Production rating 81.4. Predominant soil Egan-Wentworth loams (91-rating)
• Buyer able to farm/operate or rent out for 2012 crop year.
• Looking for a powerful piece of ground with excellent soil ratings check this one out!

TRACT TWO: 76.7 ACRES
Legal: The E 1/2 of the NE 1/4 except Lot H-1 in Section 17, 94-54 Yankton County, SD.
Location: From Tract One 1/4 mile north located in the same section.
• 69.2 Acres tillable, 6.41 acres in building site and waterways.
• Annual Taxes \$1,503.38. Oil road borders to the north and east.
• Possible new home/acreage site with established trees.
• Production rating of 69.3. Predominant soil Luton silty loams.
• Buyer able to farm/operate or rent out for 2012 crop year.

TRACT THREE: 37.8 ACRES
Legal: The SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 16, 94-54 Yankton County, SD.
Location: Directly east of Tract One
• 38.4 Acres tillable balance in road right of ways.
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Legal: SE 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 22, 94-54 Yankton County, SD.
Location: From Tract One go 1-mile south, 1 3/4 east north side of the road. Or junction of 307th St. and 450th Ave.
• 39.5 acres tillable gravel township road to south, dirt road to east
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