

D-DAYS

From Page 1A

is seeing the old pictures of students walking up the hill from the old railway station which is down below the hill," Abbott said. "They disembarked from (different areas) and some were leaving home for the first time from places like north of Aberdeen. They did it to see if they could better themselves and be what they wanted to be."

Three buildings stood on a prairie...that was what constituted the campus in those early days.

For some today it would look small in comparison to the current structures, but back then? For many it could easily have been their modern day metropolis.

"If you came from an old one-room school house and you came to Vermillion and saw Old Main, East Hall and Science Hall - those were the first three I think - that was probably pretty impressive," Abbott said. "That was probably a lot more than they were used to."

Eventually more students arrived from all points of the area and a history was born in the university's resilience and growth.

THE FIRST 25: 1914-1938, DEPRESSIONS, GREAT WARS, AND CELEBRATIONS APLENTY
"South Dakota Day is a day unique in the history of the University," proclaimed the Nov. 24, 1914 edition of The Volante - the USD school newspaper four days after the first Dakota Day celebration occurred.

It was Robert Slagle, the ninth president at USD, that was a major force behind this landmark moment.

"It was first initiated by President Slagle," Kersten Johnson, Executive Director of the USD Alumni Association, said. "He also worked as president at South Dakota State in Brookings and was instrumental in starting South Dakota Hobo Days which is their homecoming. Then he came down here to be president and started Dakota Days here as well."

With Slagle's influence, H.C. Mundt, Student Association president at the school took part of the Hobo Day idea and ran with it to set loose the first Dakota Days on Nov. 20.

"For students and alumni this is a chance to showcase the pride they have in USD,"

Johnson said just two months short of a century later. "What happens in a relatively short period of time - four years of college - sticks with you. People from across the country come back to relive those days and celebrate the institution."

Johnson has done plenty of homework on the early days of the USD homecomings and

"What I have learned is that as much as things change there is a baseline that remains constant," she said. "Kids come to USD eager, anxious, unsure of what they want to do. In their time here, many of them find out that people believe in them - faculty and staff - and walk away believing they can do more than they ever dreamt."

"We looked at interviews with alums from the 1940s and the 1980s and that's a theme that has remained constant."

That first Dakota Days saw parade participants mill about in front of East Hall.

"Without a doubt a more cosmopolitan gathering never assembled in this section of the country," the Volante reported. "There were people of all nationalities, races, and description, representing multifarious forms of occupation."

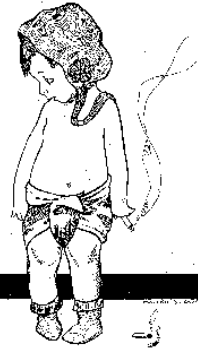
The first Miss Dakota, Fern Wassum, led the parade that wound through Vermillion en route to meet the Yankton College football team at the train station.

USD would win that game 33-3.

As time passed the parades would usually get bigger, more accompanying events or moments of splendor were added.

When World War I hit, many buildings on campus became barracks and many students enlisted.

"Most of them enlisted in the army, navy, or air service, but many returned to the farms in response to the appeal for food. The young women entered nurses' training schools or prepared comfort kits, surgical dressings and Red Cross work," Slagle said in a 1920 account to the Coyote.



FRESHMEN



TOP: The early days of the University of South Dakota campus.

ABOVE: The first year of Dakota Days, 1914.

LEFT: A sign of the times.

Courtesy of USD Alumni Association

The drought in the summer of 1930 coincided with the Great Depression, but even so, the first student union opened thanks not to tax dollars, but by the USD's students, alumni, and friends pledging nearly \$56,000.

"The Union Building is a reality and student life will all be richer because of it - a meeting place for the whole campus, the center of all University Activities," from the Volante in 1930.

As the nation worked itself out of the doldrums of Depression the Dakota Days maintained its significance on the USD campus.

Johnson said that one area that has remained constant from those days until today is dorm decorating.

"It's about the same with signs and pennants and the fun too," she said. "They have a lot of good stories about the fun

and the pranks from the 1920s and are not much different today."

Despite many of the similarities the students of the early Dakota Days were also dealing with the start of World War I and ultimately America's entry into it (1917), the Great Depression (1929-1933) and the rise of Adolph Hitler and the Nazi party (1930s).

"War has been a constant in USD history," Johnson said. "World I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and we have had very accomplished veterans at USD as well."

"Students are more serious and intentional and they still have fun. The world is smaller and they get exposed to more things than they used to."

A long-standing university, older than the state itself, has undergone changes that show the climactic shift of over 150 years.

"Realizing that they were a

university before they were a state was pretty neat," Julie Ellingson, Communications and Marketing for the USD Alumni Association, said. "Also then they had a larger male population than a female population, but now...the females have more students than males."

Those populations of male and female students at the university would be tested again as the second quarter century was set to begin.

Another war was brewing and USD was going to be affected like everyone else.

But in Coyote country that didn't mean they would let it affect Dakota Days or its participants.

Not one bit.

The Plain Talk thanks the USD Alumni Association for assistance in providing much of the historical information used in this piece.

Be sure to read Part II in next week's Plain Talk in print and online at www.plaintalk.net

CHURCH SCHEDULES

| 1101 | Announcements - Events | 1101 | Announcements - Events | 1101 | Announcements - Events | 1101 | Announcements - Events | 1101 | Announcements - Events | 1101 | Announcements - Events | | |
|---|---|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| BERGEN LUTHERAN CHURCH | "The little white church on Timber Road". Worship 10:30 am, Sunday School 9:15 am. | DALESBURG BAPTIST CHURCH | 30503 466th Ave., Beresford, Pastor Darren Regehr. 9:45am, Sunday School; 11:00am, Morning Worship; Mid-week Services Wednesdays, 7:00pm. (605)253-2622. www.dalesburgbaptist.org | FAITH UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH | ELCA, 44874 303rd St/Po Box 168, Volin, SD 57072, (605)267-2277. Sunday Worship: 9:30am with Holy Communion the 1st & 4th Sundays. WOW Wednesday program beginning at 6:30pm for all children 3 yrs old - 7th grade, and confirmation classes for those in grades 8th & 9th. | HILLSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH | 1800 Constance Dr. Worship Sept.-May 10:30a.m. AWANA Small groups; 9-10:15. Worship May-August 10a.m., 605-624-4862. www.hillside-cc.com Like us on Facebook! | PROVIDENCE REFORMED CHURCH | 830 Madison: Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. "We Welcome You To Historic Protestant Worship And Fellowship." | ST. AGNES CHURCH | 416 Walker St., Fr. John Fischer: St. Agnes Church and Parish Office, tele. 624-4478. St. Agnes Rectory, 505 Catalina, tele. 624-1995. Mass schedule: 5 p.m. Saturday, 8:00 a.m. and 10:30a.m. Sunday, Weekday Masses - consult weekly bulletin; Sacrament of Penance, Saturday 4-4:45p.m. | THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL | Highway 12 Newcastle, NE. Worship: 7:00 p.m. Saturday. Pastor Gary Kimm. Come join us! |
| BLESSED TERESA OF CALCUTTA CATHOLIC CHURCH | 995 N. Sioux Point Road, Dakota Dunes, SD. Weekend Masses: Saturday, 4:30 p.m.; Sunday, 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. | DALESBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH | 12 miles North of Vermillion on University Road. Worship Services 9:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 a.m. Website: www.dalesburglutheran.org | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH | Elmer "Sandy" Aakre, Pastor 624-6391 home, 624-4658 church. Time: 9:15 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship. Sunday Choir Practice, 11:50 a.m. | IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH | Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. | ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH | 31903 475th Ave, Elk Point, SD 57025, Sunday Service 10:30 am, Pastor David Bentz. | TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH | 816 E Clark Street, Vermillion. Join us for Worship Saturday evening: 5:30PM and Sunday morning: 10:00AM Sunday mornings: 9:00AM --Coffee fellowship, Adult Choir, Sunday School Radio broadcast: Sunday morning at 10AM on KVTk Radio, AM 1570 | UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL | 226 E. Main St., Pastor Steve Miller. 10:30a.m. Worship Service. No Longer Strangers www.uccvermillion.org |
| BRULE CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH | Elk Point, SD: Worship Service 11:00am, Sunday School 9:45am to 10:45am. | ELK POINT BAPTIST CHURCH | Sunday worship at 11:00am, Tuesday evening Bible study at 7:00pm. 101 North Green St., Elk Point, SD 57069. (605)222-1981. | FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH | Vermillion, is a welcome place reaching out to all God's people. Located at 16 N. Dakota St. Adult Sunday School 9am; Sunday Worship 10:25am; Children's Church after Children's Sermon (PreK-5). Welcome Table-serving free meal Mondays 5:30-7pm. Youth Group with Meal (Gr. 6-8) Wednesdays 5:30-7pm. High School Youth Group 7pm. Adult Choir Rehearsal 7pm. Praise Band rehearsal 8pm. Friday Morning Book Study and Breakfast 6:45am. Call (605)624-2179 for more info. Pastor Rick Pittenger. | KOMSTAD COVENANT CHURCH | Rural Beresford and Centerville, SD: Matt Styles, Pastor. 18 miles north on University Road. Phone 563-2402. Sunday School 10 a.m., Worship Service 11 a.m. | ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH | corner of Main and Linden. Sunday: nursery available. 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist. 11:00 a.m. coffee hour. Call 624-3379 for more information. | UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST | "The Uncommon Denomination." Services are the first and third Sunday of each month at 7 p.m. in the basement of the United Church of Christ, 226 E. Main. Child care services and refreshments provided. All welcome. For more information www.unitarianvermillion.blogspot.com | | |
| CHRIST OUR SAVIOR | Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod: Worship Sunday 6:00 p.m., Bible Study Tuesday, 9:00 p.m., Neuharth Center, 624-5398 or 1-800-998-1234 | ELK POINT UNITED PARISH | 603 S Pearl Street, Elk Point, Pastor David Bambas, EPUP seeks to be and make disciples of Jesus Christ who are fully devoted to loving God and others. Sunday worship at 9:30 AM (nursery available); Adventuezone at 10:30 AM for preschool (3 as of Sept.) thru 5th grade. For more information call 605-356-2008 , epups@iw.net or epunitedparish.org | GOSPEL CHAPEL CHURCH | 708 Jessie St./Highway 12, Newcastle, NE. Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday worship 10:30 a.m.; AWANA Wednesday at 7 p.m., 402-355-2305. Pastor Chuck Myers, 402-355-1335. | PLEASANT VALLEY LUTHERAN CHURCH | Rural Vermillion: Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Holy Communion First Sunday of every month. All welcome. | THE LUTHER CENTER AT USD | Life at the corner of campus and faith. Located at Cherry & Plum Streets, Vermillion. We worship weekly on Wednesday evenings at 8:30pm and host service and fellowship events throughout the year. Visit us online at www.luthercenter.org or find us on facebook! | UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL | 226 E. Main St., Pastor Steve Miller. 10:30a.m. Worship Service. No Longer Strangers www.uccvermillion.org | | |
| CHURCH OF CHRIST | 102 Prosp: Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m.; Bible Study 9:00 a.m.; Bible Study 12:00 noon; Wednesday Night Classes, 7:00 p.m. | FAITH FELLOWSHIP | of the Open Bible on Bypass 50 and Highway 19: Sunday Celebration 10:30 a.m. Pastor Tony Armbrust, 624-2921. | GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH | SBC, Pastor Steve Ford, 1102 E. Main. Phone 624-4949. Adult's and Children's Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Prayer Meeting Wednesday Night 7 p.m. | | | | | | | | |
| CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH | (LC-MS) 7 South University Street, Vermillion. Divine Service - Sunday, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday School - Sunday, 9:00 a.m. Pastor Samuel Needham. Contact us at (605) 624-3459 or at lcmsvermillion.org | GAYVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH | 9:00 am Worship, Sunday School 10:15 am. | | | | | | | | | | |
| CORNERSTONE CHURCH | A Place To Grow: Located at the corner of Crawford & Cherry St. Celebration Service: Sunday during the School year 9:00am and 10:30am (subject to change during holidays) in the summer Sunday 10 AM. Check us out at cornerstonesd.org or call (624-8809) for further information. | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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